

Bavarian News

Vol. 5, Nr. 7

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

April 8, 2009

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SCHOOL REGISTRATION

School registration begins next week for the 2009-2010 school year.

Registering early allows garrison and school officials to plan the appropriate school staff, facilities and bus routes for students.

Sponsors must provide or have the following updated documents on file at the time of registration:

- sponsor's ID
- vaccine administrative record
- name and phone numbers of two emergency contacts

- name, address and phone number of a permanent U.S. contacts

Contact your child's school for more information.

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For the latest community news and to submit energy saving ideas, visit www.grafenwoehr.army.mil

I. A.M. STRONG

Sex Signals educates, confronts sexual harassment

by **MELISSA WOLFF**
Assistant Editor

The show "Sex Signals," a traveling informative and entertaining performance about the issues of sexual assault - specifically date rape - came to the Vilseck Theatre March 26 for a large group of 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers.

The Vilseck performance came near the end of a week-long tour of Army garrisons across Europe.

Actors Fawzia Mirza and Chris Beier used humor and improvisation of real-life dating situations to get their message across about the seriousness and subtleties of sexual assault. Audience-members laughed, hooted, and hollered for the length of the 90-minute

performance, but also provided serious insight and responses into the situations acted out by Mirza and Beier.

The two actors spoke on topics ranging from the awkwardness of dating, the ways people talk about sex and the opposite sex, stereotypes that men and women fall into, what sexual assault can look like and how to avoid and prevent it.

"A woman should be 'a lady in the street, but a...'" said Beier, allowing the audience to finish the sentence, in reference to the cultural stereotype and the popular rap song that exemplifies it. The actors discussed how women often feel pressured to be passive and sexual at

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For more information on the Army's Sexual Harassment / Assault Response & Prevention Program, visit www.preventsexualassault.army.mil.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Grafenwoehr honors its youngest Soldiers



Photo by Melissa Wolff

Col. Chris Sorenson, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr commander, receives help and support from local Child, Youth and School Services participants April 1 as he signs the Month of the Military Child proclamation which recognizes the service of military children and the garrison's commitment to their character development.

THE END OF AN ERA

Last pilots train on UH-1 Huey helicopter

Story and photo by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

Four Army aviators training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels last month marked the beginning of the end for an aircraft that has been one of the most recognizable faces of Army aviation for half a century.

Four new observer/controllers with the JMRC Falcon team are the last pilots at Hohenfels, and among the last Army-wide, that will train to fly the UH-1 Huey helicopter, an aircraft used most notably in the Vietnam War and made

famous in movies such as "We Were Soldiers."

"It's kind of the end of an era," said Chief Warrant Officer Ben Maupin, a Falcon and one of five remaining Huey standardization instructor pilots.

According to Maupin, there are only approximately 60 Hueys still used in the active Army and 70 in the Army National Guard, none of which are used in combat.

Hohenfels plans to retire its fleet in April 2010 when UH-72 Lakotas will replace their ten Hueys that were built in the 1970's.

By this September the Na-

tional Guard will turn in their remaining Hueys and by October 2012 all Hueys throughout the Army will be retired, most of which will be sent to foreign military sales in Temple, Texas, according to Chief Warrant Officer Sean Higgins, UH-1 and UH-72 branch chief and director of evaluation and standards for the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Capt. Sam Redding, one of the four pilots training at Hohenfels, said he is lucky to be one of the last pilots to fly an aircraft with such a rich history.

"There were some helicop-

ters before (the UH-1), but the Huey is the workhorse. The technology that has been used in Iraq and Afghanistan was developed on the Huey. It is a multipurpose airframe that has gotten us to where we are now. It's a pride thing," he said.

Maj. Heidi Ridenhour-Jones, who, like Redding trained on Blackhawks in flight school, said piloting the Huey is a great opportunity.

"People are not going to be flying these anymore. There is a lot of aviation history that revolves around the Hueys, but I thought it would be an airframe I just never got to fly.

See PILOTS Page 25

PLANS

Gates touts strategy on Afghan television

by **JIM GARAMONE**
American Forces Press Service

The United States does not want to remain in Afghanistan one day longer than it has to, but the mission will take time, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said during an interview with Afghan television today.

The new strategy in Afghanistan is a result of months of study and consultation with Afghan leaders and other coalition allies, Gates said.

The secretary said the U.S. forces will leave Afghanistan when the country's security forces can handle the challenges on their own.

To that end, he said, the new strategy concentrates on providing security and helping the Afghan people expand the army and police.

"Afghans must protect their

See AFGHAN Page 25

BACK TO SCHOOL

New GI Bill brings comprehensive change

by **DONNA MILES**
American Forces Press Service

All systems are on track for this summer's rollout of the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, which Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said he expects to have as monumental an impact as the original World War II-era GI Bill of Rights.

Shinseki, who served as Army chief of staff from 1999 to 2003, told American Forces Press Service he understands the excitement over the new program that goes into effect Aug. 1.

The new GI Bill will provide the most comprehensive educational benefits since the original bill, officially called the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, was signed into law.

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Army Family Covenant continues to improve *YOUR* quality of life

While it may be spring, here at the garrison we are already thinking about fall – specifically, school registration is scheduled for April 15-17.

School is in session on the 15th and 16th and the 17th is a parent/teacher conference day, so check with the schools regarding the hours.

The importance of registering early for the fall school year directly impacts our children. School registration is used to plan for the number of teachers needed and to determine if facility capacities are adequate.

Parents should note there is one significant change for kindergarten registration this year. Children must be 5 years old by Sept. 1.

School registration requires the following documents be on-file and up-to-date at the school your child



is to be registered: Sponsor's orders listing child's name as a dependent and current DEROS; sponsor's ID (civilians and contractors); vaccine administrative record (2766C); name and phone numbers of two emergency contacts (mandatory); name, address, and phone number of a permanent U.S. contacts; and previous school records/previous school contact information (for new students). There are also some additional vaccination requirements. Again, contact the schools to ensure you arrive "armed" with the correct documents!

The excellence of our schools and facilities are a large part of what makes Grafenwoehr one of the Army's premier installations. Proof of our excellence was the meeting of the Military Child Education Coalition program here on March 26-27.

We were honored to have Patty Shinseki and her team facilitate this important two-day event for key educators and professionals from our area. Their work outlined several key strategies for improving our

schools.

Our support network for Soldiers and their Family Members is another standard of excellence here at Grafenwoehr.

The Army Family Covenant continues to provide quality of life initiatives covering everything from healthcare and housing to programs and services.

The Army Family Covenant refers to the bigger "Army family" and its programs are not limited to married Soldiers. For instance, more than 2,000 redeployed Soldiers from 2SCR completed Warrior Adventure Quest this month.

This program is designed to help Soldiers reintegrate through physical activities. This program is not only fun, it is truly a learning experience.

Another garrison improvement comes as we put the finishing touches on a new barracks building in Vilseck. Two additional barracks are scheduled for completion in Grafenwoehr this month and another next month.

We have also increased the accessibility and quality of

healthcare with the addition of a behavioral health clinic which focuses on managing the challenges associated with the deployment cycle. It is located behind the Grafenwoehr Health Clinic.

Under Army Family Covenant, our Child and Youth Services offers special child care openings on the first Tuesday of each month to allow parents the time to attend FRG meetings.

You may also be eligible for Army Family Covenant discounts that include up to 16 free hours of child care; discounts on hourly care, up to four free SKIES classes; up to two free Youth Sports and Fitness programs; free entrance to MegaPlay on Family Days; and "Tone with Tots," an exercise class with on-site childcare.

I also want to express my appreciation for your response to our cost savings idea solicitation.

We now have several new initiatives that we will employ to save money and keep the garrison running until the end of the fiscal year. Continue to submit ideas at the

Grafenwoehr garrison homepage: www.grafenwoehr.army.mil.

Finally, we have started phase II of the suicide prevention campaign 'Shoulder to Shoulder' is a chain teaching program that all units and agencies must complete by July 15.

At the garrison level, Command Sgt. Maj. Berrios and I have led the instruction for our directorates, who will in turn teach their supervisors and so on until the most junior Soldiers and employees have received the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army's message: "It is OK to seek behavioral health treatment and that the treatment will not adversely affect your promotion or recognition." Together, we can make a difference by removing the stigma associated with behavioral health – it is a necessary step to Suicide Prevention.

*Col. Chris Sorenson
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

CSM CORNER



Protect yourself, battle buddy from sexual assault

April is sexual assault awareness month.

In September of last year, the Secretary of the Army announced a new strategy, including the "I A.M. Strong" campaign, to prevent sexual assault and harassment.

In the last two weeks, many of our younger Soldiers attended training to better understand the situations that lead to sexual assault and date rape and the seriousness of one's inappropriate actions.

Our Army values and Warrior Ethos form a band of brothers and sisters where assaults of any kind are unacceptable. One incident is one too many. I strongly encourage and support all Soldiers to live the Army values and react immediately to stop sexual assaults before it starts and ensure our battle buddies avoid situations where assaults can occur.

If you have been assaulted, report it - sexual assault will not be tolerated in our garrison.

April is also the Month of the Military Child. As a father of three, I understand the hardships one's military career places on our children. They must overcome the unique obstacles of the

military – the challenges of the multiple moves and the hardships of deployments. Yet, they tend to shine with a resilience and confidence I have grown to admire.

Take time this month to express your appreciation to our youngest warriors. Join the Garrison April 25 as we celebrate the contributions military children make to our community at Kinderfest 2009, which will be held at the Netzaberg School Age Services building.

As we celebrate the Year of the NCO, I would like to congratulate the Soldiers of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion who will be inducted into the NCO Corps tomorrow.

They, like those who have come before them, have distinguished themselves as professionals with the competence and confidence to lead. NCOs are the backbone of the U.S. Army who continually provide strength, inspiration and motivation to all those who serve. I am proud to welcome these young Soldiers into an elite Corps.

*Command Sgt. Maj.
William Berrios
CSM, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*



My child is autistic?! A parent's perspective, advice

TERRY ROSCOE

Special to the Bavarian News

I suspected something was different about my son, Louis, when he was one year old and could not say two words or more.

Additionally, he was frequently walking on his toes, having brief spells of uncontrolled head shaking, and was obsessively occupied with lining up toys, especially by color or style.

My parents and my friends, including one who worked with special needs children, told me I was being paranoid. They consoled me and told me it was "first-time mother jitters," and after all, he didn't look like he had a problem. But my instinct told me otherwise and my pediatrician in Ramstein, Germany listened to me when I explained my concerns at Louis's one-year check-up.

The pediatrician referred me to the Educational Developmental and Intervention Services, who immediately started the evaluation and diagnostic process. During this time, they sent specialists out to observe and work with Louis and me. I was a concerned parent and wanted to diligently work with Louis.

Naively, I thought I could get him "caught up" with his peers in a year or two with focused effort. Through all these visits by specialists, autism never entered my mind - language delay yes, but not autism.

Part of the denial, I suspect, was that I did not understand the broad spectrum of the disorder, and I just didn't want to believe my child had a problem. So, when the team delivered the diagnosis of "moderate to severe autism," I was devastated. Louis was two and a half years old at this time.

Soon afterwards, I took him to Virginia and based out of my parent's home while my husband was deployed. Through Tri-care, I was able to get a second opinion from a neurodevelopmental pediatrician. His diagnosis was at the opposite end of the spectrum: severe language delay. This, exasperatingly, was little consolation for me, as it seemed no one could precisely identify his

condition or tell me how I could help my son.

I finally came to the conclusion that the diagnosis didn't matter. He had special needs and the clock was ticking. I needed to be in charge of making sure he received services as soon as possible to ensure his best chances for a happy future.

Louis started going to school part-time at two and a half. He is now nine years old and surprisingly, a well-adjusted, happy third grader. His teachers have been fantastic at helping the other kids in Louis's classroom appreciate his challenges, and Louis enjoys school. Although he is mainstreamed, he receives tailored, special services at school and continues to progress. We augment school with a targeted dose of social activities to reduce his aversion to being in unfamiliar groups, such as Boy Scouts, organized sports and outings with friends. Every moment, social or academic, is an opportunity to develop not only his cognitive abilities, but more importantly, his ability to moderate or control his behavior in a social environment.

He is still autistic and will always be, but he has a joyful soul and is a treasured gift to our family.

If you have concerns about your child, here are a few tips I have learned.

1. Start your investigation now. The earlier that a child's condition is diagnosed and his needs identified, the greater the chance that your child can receive specialized instruction and be mainstreamed in a regular classroom.

2. Don't be afraid of the stigma of your child being "labeled." An appropriate diagnosis will describe your child's challenges but will not define him.

3. Learn everything you can about the condition and become your child's advocate. It helps to plug into a support group, either "live" or online.

4. Finally, what is not understood is often feared. Educate friends and family around you to prevent isolation which can develop from misunderstanding.

Editor's Note: April is Autism Awareness Month. Look for more information on autism in the April 22 issue of the Bavarian News.



Do you have an opinion on something you'd like to share with the community? Do you have a complaint, request, or comment? Write a letter to the editor and let us know!
E-mail letters to mary.markos@eur.army.mil.

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

Producer: **MILCOM Advertising Agency**
Roswitha Lehner

Zeilaeckerstr. 35 · 92637 Weiden · Telefax 0961-67050-32

Internet: www.milcom.de

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USAG G Commander

Col. Chris Sorenson

USAG G Public Affairs Officer

DSN 475-8103, CIV 09641-83-8103
Kim Gillespie

Bavarian News Editor

DSN 475-7113, CIV 09641-83-7113
Mary Markos

Assistant Editor

DSN 475-7775, CIV 09641-83-7775
Melissa Wolff

Grafenwoehr Correspondent

DSN 475-7113, CIV 09641-83-7113
Amy Newcomb

Garmisch Correspondent

DSN 440-3701, CIV 08821-750-3701
John Reese

Schweinfurt Correspondents

DSN 354-1400, CIV 09721-96-1400
Emily Athens, Sandra Wilson

Hohenfels Correspondent

DSN 466-4917, CIV 09472-83-4917
Kristin Bradley

Ansbach Correspondents

DSN 468-1600, CIV 0981-183-791
Ronald Toland

LINN initiative gives educators, professionals tools to help children cope with traumas of war

Story and photo by
MARY MARKOS
Editor

“Daddy, why do people have to go to war?”
In a time of war and multiple deployments, military children ask difficult questions. The Military Child Education Coalition is helping educators and community service professionals find the answers and ease the challenges our youngest Soldiers face.

The coalitions’ most recent initiative, Living in the New Normal: Supporting Children Through Trauma and Loss, held a two-day, professional development seminar in Grafenwoehr March 26-27.

More than 40 educators, nurses, psychologists, and school administrators attended and were given the tools and resources needed to assist and support children who have had a parent killed, seriously wounded, or become ill as a result of combat duty.

The training, which focused on the strengths of children as they cope with change, presented participants different viewpoints, literature and situations that explained the wide range of emotions children and students deal with during a time of uncertainty.

For many of the participants who teach and work in Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, where more than 5,000 troops have deployed in the last two years, the training will be put to use immediately.

“We are in the middle of a huge deployment at our school and we’re starting to see all the stresses that are on our families and how it

manifests in the kids,” said Mary Corrigan, a counselor at Netzaberg Elementary School. “We are now seeing R&R and the kids are having another separation. They have to cope with that change again. I think (the training) gives us the opportunity to look at it with a different lens and it shows us how we can help them.”

The LINN initiative developed, said Patty Shinseki, MCEC board member who served as a facilitator at the training, after schools and professionals began requesting tools, resources and practical strategies for children who were affected by combat injuries, illness and deaths.

“We did a lot of research ... and found that there was not much available that was specifically geared toward military children,” she said.

Shinseki, a long-time military spouse and mother whose husband was injured twice during Vietnam, understands how an injury of war affects the entire family. “We had two children while he was deployed, so some of what the young spouses are experiencing

today we did back then ... but there were no services available.”

Improving services for families - especially children - became her focus. “That’s what drives me every day and inspires me to keep this alive,” she said. “The specific focus on children really elevates the importance of their service because they are serving alongside their parents and they are being impacted by what their parents are doing. This program is geared to honor their service and celebrate the courage they’ve demonstrated and really ... build resilience for

“This program is geared to honor (the military child’s) service and celebrate the courage they’ve demonstrated and really ... build resilience for them in the environment they are living.”

Patty Shinseki
MCEC Board Member and LINN
Facilitator



Long-time military spouse and mother, Patty Shinseki facilitates Living in the New Normal: Supporting Children Through Trauma and Loss March 26 in Grafenwoehr.

them in the environment they are living.”

This environment, however, is not limited to military communities.

“I would say 79 to 80 percent of our children go to public schools. The training we do is primarily geared towards public schools serving the military-connected children,” Shinseki said.

Transcending the military community, said Brenda Coffield, Installation Management Command-Europe school transition specialist, is key to a child’s success during a difficult time.

“The consistency of how to help our children if they experience a loss, or their mother or father come home injured, is really important. The

Military Child Education Coalition is nationally recognized for this program,” she said.

The MCEC is a private nonprofit organization focused on the academic and school-related needs of the military-connected child.

MCEC offers three components of the LINN initiative: a professional development course as seen in Grafenwoehr; resources and research based references; and public engagement, which educates communities about the stresses of deployments, including trauma or loss of a loved one.

More information on the LINN initiative, training sites and dates are available on the MCED Web site, www.militarychild.org.

CELEBRATING WOMEN’S HISTORY



Photo by Amy Newcomb

Diane Devens, Installation Management Command Europe Region director, discusses her accomplishments and honors at the Women’s History Month Celebration in Grafenwoehr March 27th.

The celebration honored famous women thought history with a tribute to environmental leaders in accordance with the Department of Defense’s theme, “Women Taking the Lead to Save our Planet.” The celebration also held a food sampling and poetry reading.

During her visit to the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, Devens toured installation facilities and was briefed by key staff directors.

Devens also had lunch with Middle Management Development Program participants. The Middle Management Development Program is IMCOM’s program for workforce development.

Explore ways to save money, energy at Earth Day celebration

USAG Grafenwoehr Press Release

In response to one of the federal government’s biggest campaigns to celebrate Earth Day, the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr is holding this year’s Earth Day event April 22, at 10 a.m. at the Post Exchange.

The garrison Energy Management Office is summoning the community to spend diligent efforts to one of the great challenges of our time.

This year’s theme is: New Energy for America.

The event’s goal is to confront the community with the impacts of increasing costs of energy that is aggravated by budget stagnation and longer and colder winter.

Last year the garrison spent \$32M in energy bills. With the long, cold winter, the retroactive impact of the higher energy costs and completion of new buildings, the garrison expects energy bills to be even higher this fiscal year.

“The USAG Grafenwoehr Energy Office is playing an important role in facilitating and encouraging wise energy use, while simultaneously protecting the environment and conserving natural resources,” said Aref Arianta, garrison energy manager.

For an individual, conserving energy means lower bills. Every decrease in energy cost is an increase in budget available for other critical

needs. For the garrison, every decrease in energy cost is an increase in funds available to meet other mission-critical needs.

“Each and every individual action we take - from turning off lights and lowering heating thermostatic valves in unoccupied rooms, to turning off computer monitors and computers - adds up to a brighter future for us all,” Arianta said.

“We should all learn more about energy savers and discover easy ways to save energy,” he added.

“Doing a little saves a lot on Earth Day and every day.”

The U.S. Administration’s New Energy for America Plan calls the nation’s attention to our dependence on foreign oil, addressing the moral, economic, and environmental

challenge of global climate change and building a clean energy future that benefits all Americans.

This year’s theme of New Energy for America showcases the potential and importance of New Energy for

“Each and every individual action we take - from turning off lights and lowering heating thermostatic valves in unoccupied rooms, to turning off computer monitors and computers - adds up to a brighter future for us all.”

Aref Arianta
USAG Grafenwoehr Energy Manager

America as a means to stimulate our economy, protect the environment, and increase energy independence.

“New Energy for America is not an abstract idea,” Arianta said. “It represents aggressive implementation of renewable projects that bring clean energy on line. It exemplifies the innovation of people harnessing the cheapest, fastest, and cleanest energy source — energy efficiency.”

“It demonstrates the accelerated use of high-efficiency, high-performing vehicles and the use of alternative fuels produced.”

For energy saving tips and to learn more about the Department of Energy’s Federal Energy Management Program, visit www.femp.energy.gov.

Competitors, volunteers prepare for day of fun at Special Olympic Spring Games

Story and photo by
CHRISTINE JUNE

USAG Kaiserslautern Public Affairs

In the days and weeks leading up to the Special Olympics, competitors from around Europe hone their skills and prepare for a day of games, sweat, friendship and newly formed bonds with 'Buddies.'

Eleven students from the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities will try to out perform the competition and return home victorious.

The 26th Special Olympics Spring Games is May 6 at the German Police Academy in Enkenbach-Alsenborn.

Special Olympics is an international program of athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. It comes to the Kaiserslautern military community each year courtesy of the garrison and German Police Academy.

People throughout Europe are encouraged to volunteer and root for about 800 German and American athletes at the games.

"Without our amazing volunteers

and their incredible energy, commitment and enthusiasm, the USAG Kaiserslautern Special Olympics wouldn't be possible," said Ellen Summey, the garrison's Army Community Service marketing specialist.

More than 1,000 people throughout Germany have already volunteered for this year's games, said Jason Ille, this year's Special Olympics coordinator.

"We can always have more," said Ille. "They can volunteer the day of the event – we can always find something for them to do."

Volunteers are needed to set up, tear down, serve food, register athletes, operate the competitive and non-competitive games and a "buddy." Buddies are paired with athletes and help them going to events throughout the day and lunch.

"Our volunteers run the show," said Summey.

A record number of athletes – 800, almost 200 more than the previous year – participated in last year's games. With this number of athletes

With more than 38 schools represented throughout Germany, we have many athletes who will not be able to have their friends and families there to cheer them on. This year, we are putting out a call for more people to come out and cheer for the athletes."

Jason Ille

26th Special Olympics Coordinator



Vilseck High School athletes and their 'Buddies' begin their friendship during the Parade of Athletes May 6, 2008, at the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's 25th Special Olympics Spring Games at the German Police Academy in Enkenbach-Alsenborn.

– many traveling great distances, spectators are also needed at this year's games.

"With more than 38 schools represented throughout Germany, we have many athletes who will not be able to have their friends and families there to cheer them on," said Ille. "This year, we are putting out a call for more people to come out and cheer for the athletes."

He added that shuttle buses will be picking up passengers at several installations in the KMC.

Spectators from surrounding communities are encouraged to use this shuttle service. Schedules will be posted at high-traffic areas on each of these installations.

Traditionally, the Special Olympics here has eight competitive games for ages 8 and older, and more than 10 non-competitive games for athletes, ages 5 to 7 years old.

Competitive games include tennis, track and field, badminton, bocce ball, soccer, basketball, softball and volleyball. Non-competitive games include treasure hunt, bean-bag toss, obstacle course and ring toss.

"Both volunteers and athletes look forward to this special day every spring when the entire community comes together for a day of great fun," said Ille.

To volunteer for this year's games, call DSN 493-4062, CIV 0631-3406-4062.

Spotlight on Education



NAME: Eric Weddle

What do you teach?

Music & information specialist

Hometown: Springfield, Ga.

How long have you been a teacher?

14 years.

What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I enjoy teaching students how to help themselves so that they may continue to learn throughout their lives.

What advice can you give students to succeed in school?

Students should strive to stay focused and always do their best, but don't forget to have fun!

VES students see red after reading 520,000 minutes

Story and photo by
AMY NEWCOMB

Bavarian News

Every March for the past 22 years, the Vilseck Elementary School administration has challenged and rewarded its student readers.

"It's tradition and we can't say enough about how the whole community embraces Red Hot Readers," said Principal Nancy Hammack.

This year, Hammack challenged students to read 350,000 minutes, collectively.

If the students met the challenge, Hammack vowed to dye her light blonde hair bright red.

The students not only met this goal, but surpassed it with a total of 520,000 minutes.

At a celebration assembly March 31 at the school, students received medallions or achievement certificates for their personal accomplishments.

Eighty-three students, who read over 2,000

minutes, received a medallion.

"We have never had that many classes read and read and read and read," said Johnetta Gillies, VES literacy coach.

The highlight of the celebration came when Red Hot Reader Cheerleaders and students cheered as Hammack revealed her red hair.

In support of the student's achievement, Maj. James M. Mock, 2d Stryker Calvary Regiment, 4th squadron's executive officer and Cpt. Matthew Perdue, 4th squadron public affairs officer, attended the ceremony.

"By putting forth the extra effort this month and actually logging down what you've been reading, I think you really ... honed those reading skills and you'll be more successful in life ...," said Mock to students during the assembly.

Mock brought with him two Command Variant Stryker vehicles which were posted in front of the school and available to the students throughout the day.



Vilseck Elementary School Principal, Nancy Hammack (left), with the help of Vice Principal Becky Balcer, reveals her red hair to the students at the Red Hot Readers Assembly March 31.

SAFETY FIRST Students learn traffic laws through Polizei puppet show

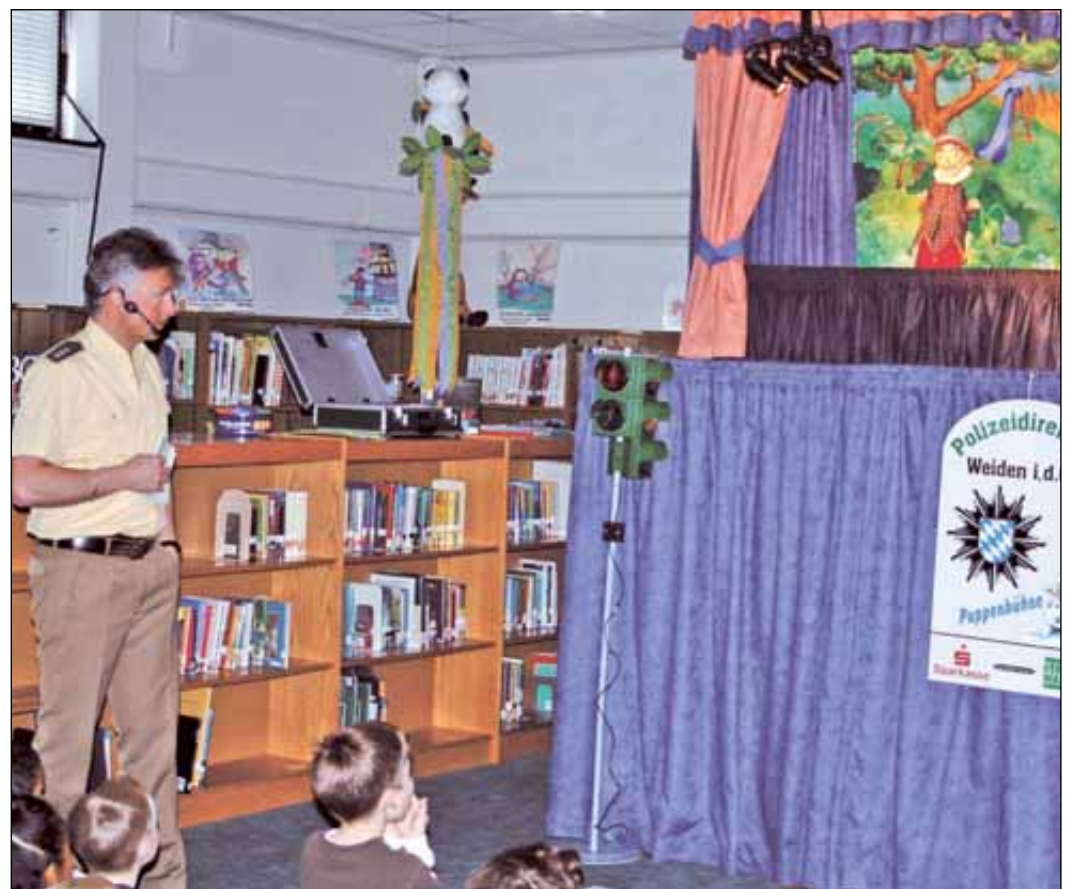


Photo by Andy Bailey

Weiden Police Officer Werner Stopfer discusses pedestrian safety with Grafenwoehr Elementary School students March 24 through a traditional, interactive German puppet show.

The show, which is done annually for students, provides an important contribution to road safety education in a non-classroom environment.

Students help the self-made puppet characters, to include the American character Scruff McGruff, make safe decisions regarding traffic rules and bike safety.

Polizei officials also performed the show at Netzaberg and Vilseck Elementary Schools.

Multinational Soldiers train together in quest for Expert Field Medical Badge

Story and photo by
Spc. FABIAN ORTEGA
USAREUR Public Affairs Office

After two weeks of crawling through weeds and hitting the books, 38 Soldiers from across Europe pinned on the Army's Expert Field Medical Badge March 30 at a ceremony in the post gymnasium in Grafenwoehr.

The 38 were all that remained of a field of more than 240 candidates. Three international candidates, two from the Netherlands and one from Slovakia, earned the badge. Gen. Carter F. Ham, commanding general, U.S. Army, Europe, recognized 13 other partner nation participants from Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Slovakia with a certificate of participation.

Similar to the Expert Infantry Badge, the EFMB requires candidates to compete in a variety of hands-on events that test Soldiers physically and mentally before they earn the badge.

More than 230 U.S. Army Europe and 16 partner nation medical personnel began competing for the Army's Expert Field Medical Badge March 25 at Camp Aachen in the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

This year USAREUR medical personnel have been here training and testing for the event, which

culminated with an awards ceremony March 30, alongside the 16 partner nation participants from Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

Capt. Justin M. Trisler, officer-in-charge of the EFMB competition, said to qualify for the badge, candidates must successfully complete one week of qualification testing that includes three combat testing lanes with a combination of communication, warrior and medical tasks.

EFMB candidates must also successfully complete day and night land navigation courses, a written test, and a 12-mile foot march, he added.

According to information from the Europe Regional Medical Command, the medical EFMB tasks tested focus on tactical combat casualty care and medical casualty evacuation. Candidates must also complete an Army Physical Fitness Test, individual weapon qualification and a cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification as prerequisites to the testing.

Historically, the biggest challenges candidates face are the written exam and land navigation, Trisler said.

In the past EFMB candidates were not allowed to retest on any portion of the competition, leading to high attrition rates, testing officials said.

This year, candidates will have an opportunity to retake the written exam.

"It used to be one opportunity to



Staff Sgt. Amondiah Brown, a medic with 4th Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment, conducts a rapid trauma assessment of simulated casualty observed by one of the graders for the 2009 U.S. Army Europe Expert Field Medical Badge competition, at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, March 26.

take the written test, and if (candidates) weren't successful the first time, they were released from EFMB," said Trisler.

"Now they have a second opportunity to retake the written test if they complete all of the CTLs (Combat Testing Lanes) and day and night land nav successfully."

Another change is the implementation of real-world scenarios during testing.

Now the competition is more battlefield-driven, Trisler said.

"Candidates are given an operation order and they go out and execute. It's more realistic and (like) what they might experience on the battlefield," said the captain.

One Soldier who received his EFMB several years ago noted that it is more difficult to earn the badge now than in years past.

"EFMB testing was more task-oriented back then," said Sgt. 1st Class

Richard Ortiz, a medic at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center serving as an assistant training lane NCO-in-charge for the EFMB.

"Now it's completely scenario-based ... (candidates) are doing 13 tasks in one lane. It keeps them focused and keeps them motivated to complete those tasks."

"In every lane you're going to be exhausted," he said.

Before embarking on their week of testing, the medical Soldiers were given a few words of encouragement and advice by Brig. Gen. Keith W. Gallagher, commander of the Europe Regional Medical Command.

"Train hard, study, work with one another and take care of one another," Gallagher said.

The general also said the EFMB is especially valuable today because training and testing for the badge helps keep participants' medical skills current in a wartime environment.

"We're an Army at war and your skills are perishable, so you need to stay up to date," he said.

The EFMB was established in June 1965 as a Department of the Army special skill award recognizing exceptional competence and outstanding performance by field medical personnel.

Three badge recipients were singled out for presentation of the EFMB Coin for excellence.

Capt. Scott Krueger, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, had the fastest road march time of 2:19:06.

Capt. Richard Sonnier, 254th Medical Detachment, completed all 45 sub-tasks correctly and also scored 90 percent on the written test – the highest mark of any candidate.

Cpl. Samuel Dee, from the Netherlands, was honored for being the only international candidate to pass the written test on the first try.

Strykers kick off Year of the NCO with 2-mile run



U.S. Army Europe Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph R. Beam addresses noncommissioned officers from the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment about the importance of setting a good example for younger Soldiers. Beam participated in an early morning NCO fun run in Vilseck as a kick-off to the Year of the NCO.

Story and photo by
Spc. JERRY WILSON
2SCR Public Affairs Office

"We are going to kick off this morning in recognition of everything noncommissioned officers do every day - by leading Soldiers - and it starts right here with physical training," 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment Command Sgt. Major Mark Morris said to the more than 700 noncommissioned officers lining the main street of Rose Barracks in Vilseck for a 2SCR run to kick off the Army's Year of the NCO.

Cadence rang through the air as the units began a 2-mile formation run with Morris and U.S. Army Europe Command Sgt. Major Ralph Beam leading the way.

Following the run Beam took the opportunity to share his view of what it means to be an NCO with the assembled runners.

"I believe wearing sergeant stripes is probably the most honorable job you'll ever have in your life," Beam said. "If you wear sergeant stripes you are never unseen. You're somebody and there

is always a Soldier out there watching you."

Beam stressed the importance of NCOs leading by example.

"In all you do you, must push yourself and your Soldiers a little harder each day," he said. "If you don't push yourself and your Soldiers, you will never get to where you want to go."

Beam recognized the NCO Corps for its important role in accomplishing the Army's mission.

"We have been fighting a war for about seven years, and we have done it on the legs of sergeants," he said. "Our officers are important and we can't do without them, but our sergeants have been carrying this war."

Morris said the primary purpose of the morning's festivities was to honor the regiment's hardworking NCOs.

"The run this morning was to bring together all the noncommissioned officers in the regiment to recognize their hard work

and let them know we are thinking about them," Morris said. "They have a hard job, which is taking care of the Soldiers and families of this community."

“ We have been fighting a war for about seven years and we have done it on the legs of sergeants. Our officers are important ... but our sergeants have been carrying this war. ”

Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam
USAREUR Command Sgt. Maj.

Garmisch celebrates women taking the lead to save our planet with awards

Story and photo by
JOHN REESE
USAG Garmisch PAO

The Pete Burke Center was standing room only for the garrison's Women's History Month observation March 25.

The event drew more than 100 people, including the kindergarten class of the Garmisch Elementary-Middle School, to listen to a panel of speakers read biographical excerpts of the lives of American women such as Jane Goodall and Lillian Wald who had an impact on the world we live in today. The 2009 theme for Women's History Month was "Women taking the lead to save our planet."

"In the early 19th century, women were considered second-class citizens whose existence was limited to the interior life of the home and care of the children. Women were considered sub-sets of their husbands and, after marriage, they did not have the right to own property, maintain their wages or sign a contract, much less vote," said acting garrison manager Russ Stokes in his opening comments. "It was considered improper for women to travel alone or to speak in public."

Women's History Month officially began in 1987, noted garrison Equal Employment Opportunity officer Freddy Osorio.

"This celebration dates back to 1911 when International Women's Day was first organized by a German woman named Klara Zetkin.

International Women's Day gained momentum in the 1960s, and became Women's History Week nationwide in 1981. Six years later, a group of women campaigned to have the week expanded and Congress created Women's History Month, which is celebrated every March. "

It is in recognition of the significant achievements that women have made

throughout our civilization that March is designated as Women's History Month, explained Osorio.

"Once again women all over the world are taking the lead," he said.

The roots for the Women's Rights movement were planted on July 19, 1848 in Seneca Falls, N.Y., when the First Women's Rights Convention was held.

A highlight of the event was the awards announcement of community members large and small who made a difference. Christina Michta and Claudine Lee, who organized a garrison police call as their way of participating in the National Day of Service that coincided with the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday, and 7 year old Bailey van Buren, who composed the winning essay base on "My mom saved the Earth by . . ." The awardees will be further honored on a plaque to go with a tree being planted on Earth Day.

The membership of the Ethnic Observance Committee includes military and civilian personnel from the combined services of the Garmisch community. They meet regularly to conceive and plan observances targeted to the garrison that are entertaining and educational.

In addition to the Presidential Proclamation, speakers and presentations, the committee offered a sample of natural healthy food dishes.

"This was a very successful event," said Osorio. "It couldn't have been done without all of the support from people behind the scenes."

The Garmisch Ethnic Observance Committee is currently meeting to shape the upcoming Asian-Pacific Heritage and Holocaust Remembrance observances.

If you would like to be part of these important events, contact the EEO office at 440-3584.



Acting Garrison Manager Russ Stokes leans down to present Bailey van Buren with her certificate for winning the essay contest "My mom saved the Earth by . . ." Bailey and the other honorees will be permanently recognized on a plaque and the planting of a tree on Earth Day.

GARRISON SNAPSHOTS

Cub Scouts from Pack 50 compete in the annual Pinewood Derby races, March 21. Boys design, construct, paint and race a car out of a block of pine.

Right, A display of some of the 13 cars set to participate in the Derby.

Far right, Pinewood Derby winners (left to right) 2nd place - Eric Biegeleisen and father Gerry; 1st place - Jack Turner and father Jim; 3rd place - Noah Maas and father Michael.



Photo by Dragon Lozancic



Photo by Tami Turner



Photo by John Reese

Karin H. Santos (left), U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch manager, awards Maj. Victoria L. Peters, former garrison Provost Marshall, a Meritorious Service Medal April 1 for her duties as the garrison's "top cop."



Bunny love: a preschooler gives the Easter Bunny a big hug at the annual Garmisch egg hunt that took place Saturday, with about 150 children ranging in age from 6 months to 6th grade scrambling for toy-filled treasures and the gold and silver special prize eggs.

Photo by John Reese

Behavioral health assets double, clinic offers psychiatric services

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Last month as the U.S. Army worked to increase knowledge about mental health issues and mild traumatic brain injury during Brain Injury Awareness Month.

The U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels health clinic followed suit by increasing the mental health services available to Soldiers and other TRICARE beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries now have on-post access to a full time psychologist and psychiatrist one day a week.

With the new staff and the acquisition of an Automated Neuro-Psychological Assessment Metric testing station, Lt. Col. Derek Cooper, health clinic commander, said the clinic has nearly doubled its behavioral health assets and is already starting to use them.

Soldiers that returned from Afghanistan in February with 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment's Team Cherokee that were exposed to trauma were assessed by an

We need to eliminate the stigma of seeking mental health services. A lot of the time they are simply injuries... No one should be afraid to seek behavioral health care, no matter the reason for it.

Lt. Col. Derek Cooper
Hohenfels Health Clinic Commander

ANAM team from Bavaria Medical Department Activity.

All Soldiers that deployed in January with Team Blackfoot completed a baseline ANAM. If they feel it is necessary, health care providers will use that to compare with the Soldier's post-deployment ANAM results to see if any cognitive performance functions have changed.

Copper said the ANAM, something like an interactive computer game that assesses response, reflex, memory and recall times, is one of the tools PCMs use to screen for mTBI.

If a Soldier's results warrant further investigation a specialist will determine what additional tests or treatments are needed.

"March is Brain Injury Awareness

Month and part of doing that is really to change the culture in the Army about seeking mental health services," said Cooper.

"What we have learned is that mTBI is very curable. They can definitely recover from it. The sooner we can diagnose it the easier it is to recover from," said Chris Pongratz, a clinical social worker with the Hohenfels clinic.

Cooper said the new tool is not exclusively for Soldiers. Family members and other TRICARE beneficiaries may also be referred for an ANAM test if their primary care manager is concerned about trauma sustained from something like a car accident or fall.

In addition to the ANAM, Soldiers

and civilians are encouraged to take advantage of the services offered by the psychologist and psychiatrist, especially as the Army focuses on reducing suicide rates throughout the ranks.

Dr. Alexandra Clarfield, the clinic's new full-time psychologist, said the new providers' services are definitely not earmarked solely for mTBI patients.

Anyone can make an appointment with a behavioral health specialist if they think they have a need or they may possibly be referred by their PCM, a chaplain or social worker.

Clarfield said she typically will see a patient first, referring them to the psychiatrist if needed.

In general a psychologist is

primarily focused on cognitive skills and functioning whereas a psychiatrist will also look at interactions with other systems in the body and has the ability to prescribe medication.

Cooper said he hopes having both types of doctors available at the clinic will encourage patients to get the care they need.

"We need to eliminate the stigma of seeking mental health services," he said. "A lot of the time they are simply injuries. Soldiers shouldn't think a brain injury is any different than any other injury. No one should be afraid to seek behavioral health care, no matter the reason for it. We're seeing a culture shift about this in the Army and Soldiers are coming around. Hopefully because of that there will be more people seeking help and we have increased our capabilities to meet that demand."

Pongratz shares the same philosophy.

"We're trying to normalize these things and the more normal they are, like a broken leg, the more people will come in to get them fixed," she said.

Students given opportunity to shadow parents, Soldiers, attend Uebungsdorf demonstrations

Sgt. 1st Class Dexter Drayton shows his daughter Mayah, 6, and son Malik, 10, how to handle an M16 rifle during Job Shadow Day at Hohenfels.

The annual event aims to show children what their parents do at work, as well as observe an occupation they find interesting.

Photo by Kristin Bradley



Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Students of all ages had the opportunity April 2 to see what their parents and other adults at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels and the Joint Multinational Readiness Center do at work.

The children shadowed their parents at locations throughout post during the annual Job Shadow Day.

JMRC units hosted special demonstrations at the Uebungsdorf Military Operations on Urban Terrain site where children learned how to shoot an M16 rifle, operated robotic machinery, toured a helicopter, and saw how Soldiers and civilians on the battlefield replicate urban areas for realistic military training.

Michelle Wolff, garrison school liaison officer, said some students chose not to spend the day with their parents so they could observe a different occupation they find interesting.

"We want to have kids be able to see what their parents do all day and also gain valuable experience in something they might be interested in," said Wolff.

Though not all children want to follow in their parent's footsteps, many were particularly excited for the military demonstrations because they said they want to be Soldiers when they grow up like their mom or dad.

John Thomas Kerins, 10, who wants to be in the Special Forces like his father, said he liked

Uebungsdorf because it was like being in Iraq where his father last deployed.

"This is a once in a while thing," he said.

Though Kerins' father has since returned from deployment, Wolff said many children have a parent that was either deployed or otherwise unavailable to take their children with them on Job Shadow Day.

To make sure no child who wanted to participate would be left out, she spent the day taking a bus full of students to the many demonstration areas like Uebungsdorf.

Sergeant 1st Class Dexter Drayton said he was excited to finally be able to bring his children to the event.

"I have been in the military for a long time and this is the first time they can come and participate in something at this level," he said, adding that it was his daughter Mayah's sixth birthday and she thought spending the day with daddy was a great birthday present.

Though she wants to be a singer when she grows up, Mayah seemed just as excited as the self-proclaimed future Soldiers while she rattled off all she had done that day.

Her brother Malik, 10, listened with rapt attention as Drayton showed him the parts of an M16 and how to shoot it.

Like lots of his classmates Malik didn't hesitate when asked what he wants to be when he is older, confidently saying he attended Job Shadow Day because, "I wanted to see what it would be like to be a Soldier."

Overseas contractors reminded to file with IRS or face penalties

by SERENA BUSHEE
Hohenfels Tax Center

It is common for retirees living in Germany and employed by one of the large military contracting companies such as Rathen or L-3 to think that because they work for a tax-free company they do not need to file an income tax return.

That assumption, however, is untrue.

Even if contractors are earning pay in local currency, they still have an obligation to file. Failing to do so could result in serious fines.

U.S. citizens with income from sources outside the United States must report all that income on U.S.

tax returns unless it is exempt by U.S. law. In this instance, exempt refers to organizations, not individuals earning income overseas that is tax excludable.

This applies to all earned income (such as wages) and unearned income (such as interest, dividends and capital gains.)

The Internal Revenue Service is taking steps for those who repeatedly do not comply with the law.

IRS employees prepare returns when taxpayers do not file. The returns filed by the IRS may not give credit for deductions, exemptions, or income exclusions a taxpayer might be eligible for.

Bills will be sent to those taxpayers

for the tax due plus penalties and interest.

Recently, there have been many cases in military communities where contractors stationed overseas are receiving bills for their wages earned with these contracting companies because without filing a return the IRS does not know that it is tax-free income.

Any U.S. citizen, regardless of where he or she is living and no matter what currency or means by which money is earned, must report income to the IRS.

Doing so will not only prevent charges against a contractor's personal tax account but will also be in accordance with the law.



Courtesy photo

Any U.S. citizen, regardless of where he or she is living and no matter what currency or way money is earned, must report it.

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Sergeant reflects on the bonds formed in combat, actions that earned him V device

by **Spc. FABIAN ORTEGA**
USAREUR Public Affairs Office

More than two years have passed since Staff Sgt. Clifford Neighbors received an Army Commendation Medal with V device for valor and a Bronze Star while serving with the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment in Iraq.

Neighbors' actions on the streets of Baghdad in August 2006 earned him the valor award he attributes to his team and a former platoon sergeant.

During a routine mission making the rounds of Iraqi National Police checkpoints, Neighbors' convoy was halted by three improvised explosive devices.

After securing the area and waiting for explosive ordnance disposal experts to clear the route, Neighbors said he and the interpreter riding in his truck got out of the vehicle.

"As I walked (toward the opposite side) to check for damage, shots rang out," he said.

Neighbors and the interpreter were struck by sniper fire, he said. The sergeant's arm, lungs and heart were pierced. The interpreter was shot in the chest.

EOD personnel brought the interpreter to the truck, where Neighbors tended to the man's injuries in spite of his own wounds.

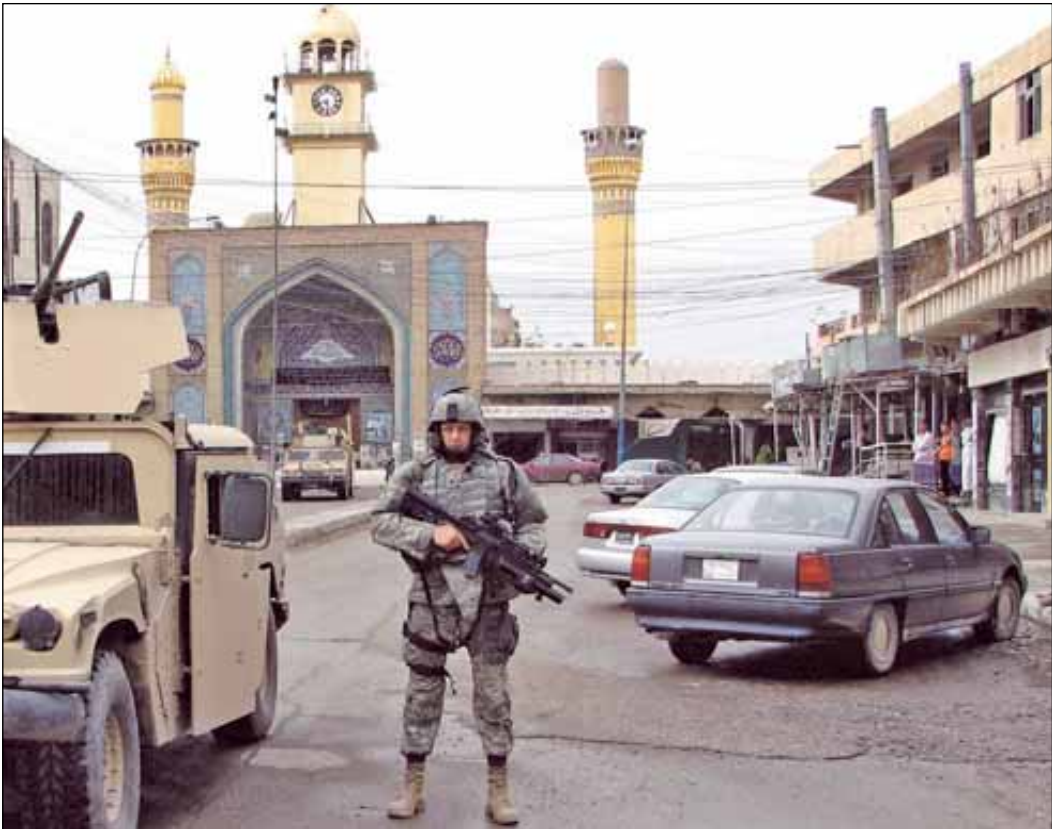
"I reassured him everything would be okay and I gave him first aid," Neighbors said.

The interpreter later passed away at a nearby combat support hospital.

The sergeant said he reflects on those events every day. "It's one of the first things I think about," he said.

He said his decision to render first aid while sustaining a life-threatening injury was not heroic – it was his duty as a Soldier.

"I am glad that someone thought that my



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Clifford Neighbors on duty in Samarra, Iraq, May 8, 2006, three months before he earned an Army Commendation Medal with V device for his actions while fighting with the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment in Baghdad.

actions were worthy of a medal, but I'm just a guy who was just doing his job over there and trying to survive," he said.

The 15-year Army veteran said the advice he received as a young infantryman from a platoon sergeant injured in the invasion of Panama guided his actions and decisions in the truck that day.

"He told me the only way he survived was by staying calm," Neighbors said.

Neighbors said he remained calm, even after he noticed a bullet hole in the center of his chest with blood pouring out.

"Some of the people that were part of my team told me they could not have stayed so calm," he said. "I really did not know the extent of the injury at the time. I just knew it hurt."

Neighbors said he believes the actions of his fellow National Police Training Team members that day are what ultimately saved his life.

"Those 10 men on my team, they're heroes," he said.

The team made the decision to evacuate the site and rush him and the interpreter to the nearest hospital rather than wait for a helicopter to airlift them back, the sergeant said.

The bond formed with his team during the deployment remains strong, he added, noting that he writes to his fellow Soldiers regularly while he's on leave.

"It's a bond that will probably never be broken. You've experienced the good, bad and the in-between with these men and women," he said.

He called the bond forged through combat different than a bond formed with others who have never served.

"We entrust our lives to each other because it's just you and them," he said. "That's all you have and that's the difference."

Now working as the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program president for U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, Neighbors is far from combat operations. But he said he would go back again.

"I would go anywhere they told me to go, simply for the fact that my country calls on me and I need to be there," said Neighbors.



A pilot from the Joint Multinational Readiness Center Falcon team gives a group of local German mayors last minute instructions March 31 before taking them on a helicopter tour of the Hohenfels training area and the surrounding communities.

Community relations event takes German mayors to new heights

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Mayors from the communities around U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels got the chance to see their towns from a very different perspective March 31 when Joint Multinational Readiness Center Falcon team pilots took them on a helicopter tour of the Hohenfels training area and surrounding towns.

The flight followed the annual Community Relations Advisory Council Meeting that serves as a method of improving communication and relations between the garrison and local host nation leadership.

Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg, garrison commander, said this was the first time in the 31 years since helicopters have been at Hohenfels that the mayors were invited to fly.

"I just can't believe this is the first time we've done this," he said. "We should do this every year."

Judging by the wide grins and applause one group gave their pilots upon landing, the mayors seemed to agree.

Though despite the adventurous conclusion, CRAC meetings are not just entertainment.

According to Bloomberg, the meetings are an important way for garrison and local leaders to maintain their successful relationship.

"The exchange of information is important," said Lupburg Mayor Alfred Meier.

During the March 31 meeting garrison and JMRC officials briefed the mayors on previous and upcoming training rotations, community relations events like the German/American Volksfest, planned construction projects and more.

Army leaders also briefed the mayors on how many local nationals are currently employed on post, how much money Americans spend on off-post medical care and how many active duty and civilian employees live in German communities.

Though there are obvious business aspects to the German American relationship, Meier says that it is just one small part.

"It is pure friendship," he said. "Not only do we do business together, but we live together. There are American children in German kindergarten. We play sports together. We are well integrated."

(The German American relationship) is pure friendship.

Alfred Meier
Lupburg Mayor

Soldiers utilize MOUT site, train on advanced scenario

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

The Hohenfels training area Military Operations on Urban Terrain sites are usually used to train troops on their way to Iraq or Afghanistan, but March 27 it was a local crowd that tested their skills in the mock villages.

U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment and its antennae units took advantage of their location at one of the Army's best training centers when they used the MOUT sites for part of their warrior leader skills training.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Cofield, HHD sergeant, said the training is required for Soldiers about to deploy, but has not recently been conducted for Hohenfels' garrison Soldiers.

"It hasn't been done here in a while, but we wanted to do it to make sure they're at the level they should be. If they do end up going to a unit and deploying we don't want them to be behind," he said.

During the MOUT scenario, Soldiers were required to make a direct hit on the safe house of an enemy component that had taken control of the village.

Cofield said Capt. Jon Genge, garrison HHD commander and acting commander for the exercise, decided on an advanced scenario to see how much the Soldiers had absorbed from their classroom instruction.

"They had only had classes up till then. We could have done a simpler scenario but we wanted to give them a more advanced one and see where they were at. They did a good job," said Cofield.

As operations on urban terrain become more frequent, the Army is focusing more on training Soldiers on the specific skill sets required to succeed in those specialized conflicts.

Because operations in urban areas are conducted to defeat an enemy that may be mixed in with civilians, MOUT training focuses on the intricacies of dealing with a population where friends and foes are often indistinguishable.

Cofield said the HHD Soldiers trained to interact with village leaders and civilians while working to accomplish their mission.

In two months HHD Soldiers will practice these tasks again when they undergo even more rigorous MOUT training and complete advanced close quarters marksmanship training.



Photo by Norbert Wittl

Soldiers from USAG Hohenfels Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment undergo Military Operations on Urban Terrain training March 27.

What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

Early-bird shopping

Early Bird Shopping is now accessible Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 - 10 a.m. at the Vilseck Commissary. Only 15-item-limit Self Check Out registers will be open for Early Bird hours. Deli sandwiches will be available at the Grab-n-Go section, but made-to-order sandwiches will not be available until 10 a.m.

Free movie

“Taking Chance” at Vilseck Theater Firday, 6:30 p.m. Taking Chance is the true story of Lt. Col. Michael Strobl, USMC, as he escorts the body of Chance Phelps, a young Marine who had been killed by hostile fire in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, to his family in Dubois, Wyo.

Earthworms

Earthworms to Perform in Vilseck Friday, 8 p.m. at Rose Barracks Memorial Gym. One of the most acclaimed hip-hop groups out of St. Louis, the Earthworms provide a fresh take on Hip-Hop you’ll dig.
For more, visit <http://www.armed-forcesentertainment.com/Earthworms.htm>

Easter egg hunt

The community is invited to the Grafenwoehr Field House Saturday from 2-4 p.m., for an Easter egg hunt and lots of games and prizes. No cost to attend.
For more, call the Graf Chapel at DSN 475-1570, CIV 09641-83-1570.

Bunco

April 15 is Gourmet Night at the Zone Sports Bar in Vilseck at 6 p.m. Participants have a chance to win gift cards from Williams-Sonoma, iGourmet.com, SpaFinder.com, Bath & Body Works, Best Buy and Barnes & Noble and more.

Healthcare Decisions Day

The Grafenwoehr legal center, in Bldg. 106, invites all ID card holders to their office April 16 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., to learn about advance care planning, and executing written advance directives, such as durable healthcare powers of attorney and living wills.
For more about National Healthcare Decision Day, visit www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org, or call Bradley Huestis, DSN 475-7114, CIV 09641-83-7114

Vilseck sports store

The Vilseck sports store will have its grand opening April 18 at 11 a.m. next to

the Vilseck Commissary. The store has name-brand athletic clothing, plus a huge selection of mountain bikes, athletic shoes, sports equipment, nutrition, camping, and more.

Special Olympics

The annual Kaiserslautern Special Olympics Spring Games will be May 6 in nearby Enkenbach.
Hundreds of volunteers are needed, including more than 700 Buddies for the athletes.
If you wish to volunteer as a Buddy or for another position contact Larry_Zani@compuserve.com.

Blood drives

Give the gift of life. Make an appointment for donation at www.military-lifeforce.com.
Today: Grafenwoehr Blood Drive at the Field House, Bldg. 547, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tomorrow: Vilseck Blood Drive at the Rose Barracks Memorial Gym, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Midnight Madness

The Midnight Madness Basketball Tournament is rescheduled for April 25. Registration deadline is Friday. It is a Unit- and Troop- Level, single-elimination basketball tournament.
For more, call DSN 475-9024 or DSN 476-2214, CIV 09641-83-9024 or CIV 09662-83-2214

Tax centers are open

Scheduled appointments and walk-ins are available daily, with extended hours several days a week.
In Graf, call DSN 475-9258, CIV 09641-83-9258, in Vilseck DSN 476-2714, CIV 09662-83-2714 for more.

Travel opportunities

To sign-up for these trips, call Vilseck ITR DSN 476-2563, CIV 09662-83-2563, or Graf ODR DSN 475-7402, CIV 09662-83-7402.
• Mosel Wine and Medieval Castles, May 1-3
• Cinque Terre, Pisa, and Lucca Italy, May 21-25

KONTAKT Club

Check out your local German-American friendship organization, KONTAKT Clubs in Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Amberg.
For more, call DSN 475-8885, CIV 09662-83-8885, or DSN 475-1600, CIV 09641-83-1600, visit <http://www.kontakt-vilseck.de>

Employment readiness

ACS Employment Readiness Program offers weekly e-mails of jobs available within USAG Grafenwoehr.
Gain the skills you need to find the job you want. Call ACS at Vilseck CIV

09662-83-2650, or Graf CIV 09641-83-8371 for more or to be put on the job distribution list.

Clinic appointments

You can now book your Vilseck Health Clinic appointments by following these steps:
1. Visit <https://www.tricareonline.com/welcome.do>
2. Click to agree with terms and conditions
3. Click Register with TOL
4. Fill in the appropriate information for each family member

Estate claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Spc. John S. Jeffries of 41st CTC, 18th CSSB, should contact the summary court martial officer, 1st Lt. James C. Simmons at DSN 476-5120 or email james.c.simmons@us.army.mil.
Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of PV2 Court D. Hauge of RHHT, 2d SCR should contact summary court martial officer, 1st Lt. Matthew M. Daigle at DSN 476-5045 or email matthew.m.daigle@eur.army.mil.

Academic mentors needed

Dr. Elizabeth Childs, Netzbarg Middle School principal, is calling for adult volunteers to mentor students grades 6 - 8 towards academic success.
Mentors would make a nine-week commitment to come to the school once a week from 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. to tutor a student.
If interested, contact the middle school counselors at, lisa.levy@eu.dodea.edu, or pamela.skorupski@eu.dodea.edu.

VFW news

The Grafenwoehr VFW hosts an Open House every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Business meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
POC is Commander, James Holliman 0160-91423858, or Sr. Vice Commander Roger Schneider 0160-95877025.
Vilseck VFW holds an Open VFW night Thursdays for members and for those that are curious, held at Bldg. 133 (located behind Vilseck Fire Station) 6-10 p.m.

Now hiring

The Community Bank in Vilseck is looking for a part-time teller. The position will be temporary until December 31, but may become permanent.
Applications can be picked up at any CommunityBank, but must be turned in to Vilseck’s banking center.
Call CIV 09662-8791, or e-mail vilseck.bc@dodcommunitybank.com for more.

Identity theft

Identity theft is a worldwide problem. Contact DuJon Moss, certified identity theft risk management specialist at CIV 0162-736-7148 to find out how you can stay safe.

Hohenfels Briefs

Trip to the beach

ITR offers a one-day trip to Palm Beach Pool and Resort. The bus will depart from the ODR (building H15) at 8:15am April 15 and return around 2:30pm. Cost is \$35 per person which includes transportation and entry fee into Palm Beach. Seating is limited to 35 people.
Call DSN 466-2060 for reservations.

Kinderfest is coming

A traditional rite of spring, the FMWR Kinderfest will be held April 17. From 9 a.m.-noon is designed for children age 5 and under with fun and games for the kids, plus information for parents. There will also be an opportunity to register for a complete child developmental screening.
From 3-7 p.m. is the Spring Carnival with jumping castles, the K-9 team, an Army helicopter, food, face painting, a clown, prize give-aways, the Hohenfels Tigers and more. Both events will take place at the SAS facilities, Bldg. 112.

Crystal and pottery shopping

ITR offers a one-day trip of shopping to Czech for Crystal and Poland for pottery.

The group will travel to a special wholesale crystal outlet in the Czech Republic and then venture across the border into Poland for some authentic Polish Pottery shopping.
Bus will depart from ODR (bldg. H15) at 4:00am April 18 to arrive in Ceska Lipa outlet by 9 a.m. and return to Hohenfels around 12:30 a.m. Cost is \$65 per person. Price includes transportation to and from Czech and Poland.
Passports are required. Seating is limited to the first 50 people. Call DSN 466-2060 to reserve your seat.

Holy week services

Join St. Michael’s Catholic community in celebrating the Lord’s Supper tomorrow at Holy Thursday Mass, at 5 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration will follow from 6-8 p.m.
Remember the Lord’s Passion Friday with the Good Friday Service at 5 p.m.
The Easter Vigil will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday.
Easter Sunday Mass will be held Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
All held in the Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 2. Childcare is available during all services. For more, call Naomi Evans at DSN 466-2226.

KONTAKT Club

Check out your local German-American friendship organization, KONTAKT Club in Hohenfels. The community is invited to participate in the Club’s upcoming activities.
Saturday, Easter Coffee at the CYAC, Bldg. 743, 3 p.m. to include an Easter egg hunt.
April 15: Monthly club Stammtisch, or regular dinner, at Josef’s Tavern, Hohenfels at 7 p.m. For more, or for directions to the events, call the Public Affairs Office at DSN 466-4294, or visit www.kontakt-hohenfels.com.

Food handlers course

If you are working in a food booth at the Volksfest, Kinderfest or any other event where you will be handling food, you must attend a course on food handling.
This two-hour class will be offered April 21 at the 1-4 Battalion Classroom in Bldg. 856, at 2 p.m.
Register by calling James Williams at DSN 466-4611, or Jamie Stevens at DSN 466-2060.

Health and safety classes

The American Red Cross will be hosting health and safety classes.
April 18: CPR & First Aid, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., ACS conference room.
May 8: CPR & First Aid, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., ACS conference room.
May 9: Babysitter’s training, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Location to be announced.
Cost is \$30 for First Aid, \$35 for CPR, or \$40 for both.

Additional course dates are available in Vilseck.

Spring craft fair

April 18, the HCSC is hosting its first Spring Craft Fair from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Middle/High School Great Hall. Crafters are needed to sell their own creations. For an application, e-mail hcsinfo@yahoo.com or for more go to www.hohenfelscsc.com.

Volunteer recognition

Hohenfels ACS is hosting the Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 22 for registered volunteers.
If you need childcare make sure you are registered through CLEOS. Child drop-off time begins at 10:30 a.m. and all children must be picked up by 2 p.m.
If you received an invitation, RSVP to ACS at DSN 466-4860/4089, or to lori.starnes@eur.army.mil.

JMRC Spring Ball

The JMRC Spring Ball is at the Ostbayernhalle in Kreuth, April 24, 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available from the JMRC S1 in Bldg. 1 or from team representatives. The evening will feature a social hour from 5:30-7 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner and dancing.
Cost is 17 Euro for staff sergeants and below, civilians in pay band one and local national employees. Sergeants first class and above and all others pay 20 Euro.
Child care can be reserved at the Child Development Center at CLEOS in Bldg. 10 until April 17. Pre-payment required.
For more, call Bob Leon at DSN 520-5506 or Sgt. 1st Class Cristita Bufford at DSN 520-5350.

Spring golf classic

All U.S. ID card holders are invited to participate in the Hohenfels’ Spring Golf Classic April 24 at the Hilzhofen Golf Course. Check-in will be 7 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. There is a \$10 registration fee and 20 Euro green fee. Eighteen team slots are available with four persons each. (ABCD composition is preferred.)
Registration deadline is April 21.
For more, call Chris Cornelison at DSN 466-2493. To register, e-mail dlmwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil.

Travel club

The library is trying to start a Travel Club in Hohenfels to share travel tips, learn about different destinations and more. Call Nan Barker at DSN 466-2241 if you are interested in joining.

Single Soldier’s retreat

The Family Life Chaplain is sponsoring a Single Soldiers Retreat May 1-3 at Edelweiss in Garmisch.
To reserve your spot, call DSN 466-3473/4795.



USAG Grafenwoehr Religious Services Schedule

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

CATHOLIC (Grafenwoehr/Vilseck)

- HOLY THURSDAY – Thursday (6 PM) at Vilseck Main Chapel
- GOOD FRIDAY – Friday (6 PM) at Grafenwoehr Chapel

PROTESTANT (Vilseck)

- HOLY THURSDAY – Thursday (5 PM) at Vilseck Small Chapel
- GOOD FRIDAY – Friday (3 PM) at Vilseck Small Chapel

EASTER SERVICES

EASTER VIGIL (CATHOLIC)

- SATURDAY (7 PM) at Grafenwoehr Chapel (Bldg 142)

EASTER WEEKEND (ALL SERVICES)

- SATURDAY – SUNDAY regularly scheduled services at Grafenwoehr and Vilseck Chapels (with emphasis on Easter Sunday Traditions)

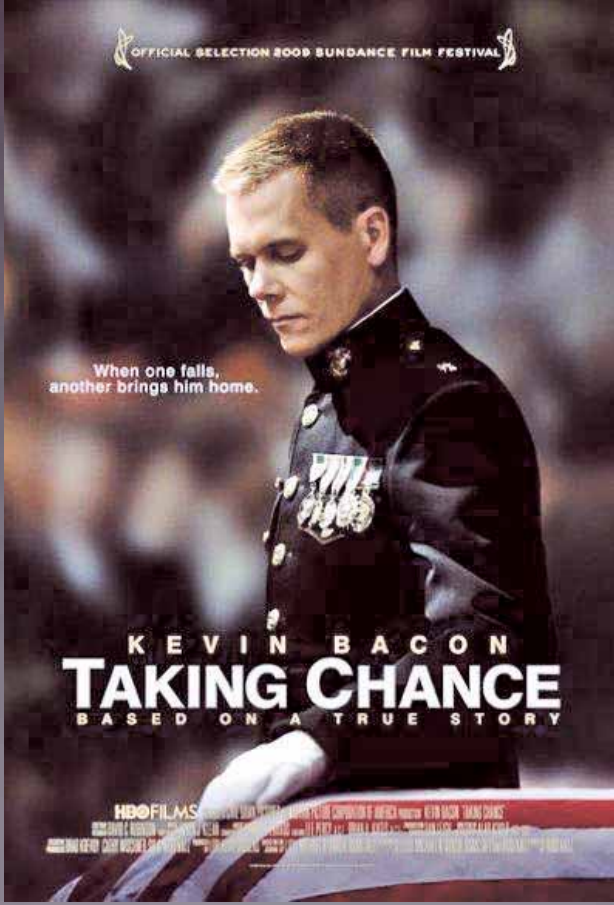
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

SUNDAY (7 AM)

- Dick Heuter Lake, Grafenwoehr (on post)
- *In case of inclement weather: Grafenwoehr Chapel
- Speaker Chaplain (COL) David Hillis, USAG-GRAF Chaplain
- Continental Breakfast following the service at Grafenwoehr Chapel Annex, Bldg. 140
- POC: Chaplain Chun at 476-1570 or SFC Alam at 475-7223

Free movie showing

Friday at 6:30 p.m. at the Vilseck Theater



What’s Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Easter Egg-Spedition

As part of its Month of the Military Child Celebration, Ansbach FMWR hosts Easter Egg-Spedition April 11 at Katterbach and Storck Barracks.

The egg hunt is from 10 a.m. - noon at Storck Barracks behind the chapel. At Katterbach, from noon - 2 p.m. at the youth athletic fields. There will be food, prizes, an Easter Bunny visit and more.

For a full schedule and more, call DSN 467-2395, CIV 09802-83-2395.

Bank closure

Community Bank on Katterbach will be closed April 10-13 for Easter. Automated teller machines are available 24/7. Customers can also access the bank at <http://www.dodcommunitybank.com>.

Commissary schedule

The Katterbach Commissary will change its hours for Easter week.

Today and Thursday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Commissary is closed Easter Sunday. Normal hours resume Tuesday.

Subway extended

Hours for the Subway at Storck Barracks have been extended. Hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., closed Sundays.

New orthodontist

The Katterbach Dental Clinic welcomes back orthodontist Dr. James Newman. He was the orthodontist previously at Katterbach from 2001 - 2006 and has 30 years of experience. For more, call DSN 467-2223, CIV 09802-83-2223.

Denim Day

As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the USAG Ansbach community is asking people to wear jeans on Denim Day April 22 to show support for the battle against sexual assault.

For more, call DSN 467-2883, CIV 09802-83-2883.

Help newcomers

Army Community Service seeks volunteers interested in being a greeter to a new member of our community. Contact Temeka Cochran at DSN 467-2370, CIV 09802-83-2370 for more and to apply.

AER campaign

The Ansbach Army Emergency Relief

Campaign runs now to May 15. For more on the campaign or to find out how to contribute to AER, call DSN 467-2553, CIV 09802-83-2553.

Mail notification via e-mail

The USAG Ansbach CMRs now offer e-mail notifications for the arrival of packages at the mail room.

People can register for the service at their servicing mail room. For more, talk to the staff at your CMR.

Marriage, family therapy

The Ansbach Behavioral Health Clinic on Bleidorn Kaserne, Bldg. 5083, has a marriage and family therapist available Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The therapist sees couples and families for counseling for pre- and post-deployment related issues that impact the marriage or family, as well as for reasons not related to deployment.

For more or to make an appointment, call DSN 468-7853, CIV 0981-183-853.

ASCC scholarships

Applications for the Ansbach Spouses’ and Civilians’ Club Scholarship Program are available. The club will give \$6,000 in scholarships this year.

The three categories for scholarships are: high school seniors, college students who are military family members and spouses’ club members pursuing higher education.

Applications are available online at <http://www.asccgermany.org>. For more, e-mail scholarship@asccgermany.org.

Jungle Jam

Ansbach FMWR hosts Jungle Jam Celebration, the Month of the Military Child event, April 25, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the old 412th Hangar, Bldg. 6500, on Storck Barracks. The event will feature food, fun, games and more. For more, e-mail ans-mwr@eur.army.mil.

Summer hire

The program provides jobs for youth family members ages 14-22 from June 22 - July 31. Applications are now being accepted by Civilian Personnel, and are available at <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur>. Go to “Employment” and the “Summer Hire Program 2009.”

Defensive driving

Installation Management Command-Europe offers the Army Traffic Safety Training Program Advanced Driver Course - a defensive driving course available to all community members, and required for all Soldiers under age 26.

Visit http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/management/so_atstp.asp.

The next class at Katterbach is March

30, 4-5 p.m., Bldg. 5818, Room 121. The next class at Storck Barracks is April 13, 3:30-5 p.m., Bldg. 6516 in the area support team conference room.

Dinner times change

New dinner serving times at the Storck Barracks and Katterbach dining facilities are 5-6:30 p.m.

For more, call DSN 468-7919, CIV 0981-183-919.

Meet the Mids

Ansbach Middle/High School hosts Meet the Mids for all rising 7th graders and their parents, along with all current 7th graders, to enjoy a night of fun and dinner May 28, 5:30-7 p.m. to allow the incoming students to get acquainted with their new school and meet with the current 7th grade students.

For more, call the school at DSN 467-2808, CIV 09802-83-2808.

No idling

Idling your vehicle is against the law in Germany. Besides polluting the air, making noise and wasting gas, it can earn violators a 10 Eur. fine.

For more, call DSN 467-3423, CIV 09802-83-3423.

Free fitness classes

Ansbach fitness centers offer free fitness classes that include Pilates, indoor cycling, muscle power and more. Certified fitness instructors offer group exercise programs at the Bunch Fitness Center at Storck Barracks and the Katterbach Fitness Center.

Stop by your fitness center for a class schedule, or call DSN 468-7311, CIV 0981-183-311.

Now hiring

The Franconian Inn on Bismarck Kaserne is hiring desk clerks who are able to work nights and weekends. Pay starts at \$8.44 an hour.

For more, go to <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm> and search for announcement EUNAFHJ09012AOC1 or keyword Desk Clerk.

Submit applications or resumes to the NAF civilian personnel advisory center, Room 313, Bldg. 5254 on Barton Barracks or call CIV 0981-183-822.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Spring cleaning flea market

Clean out your house and sell your wares at the Schweinfurt Middle School flea market May 2, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Purchase a table for the event, \$10 for half and \$20 for full day. Email diane.schmidt@eu.dodea.edu for an application or call CIV 09721-96-6815.

Auto tire class

Learn everything you’ve ever wanted to know about tires at the Automotive Support Spouse Awareness Program class at the Conn Auto Skills Center April 9 at 6 p.m. Class is open and free to all I.D. card holders. Call CIV 09721-96-8224 to sign up.

Easter sunrise service

The community is invited to attend the Ledward Chapel Easter sunrise service Sunday at 7 a.m. Child care will be available. For more information, call CIV 09721-96-1370.

Adult softball

Community softball needs you to join a team. Registration runs through April 16 and is open to all I.D. card holders age 18 and up. Season begins April 21. Weekend games travel to various installations to compete. For more, call CIV 09721-96-8234.

Easter egg hunt

Bring your children to the community Easter egg hunt Sunday at 2:15 p.m. at Ledward’s Andrus Garden outside Bldg. 206. Children will also get to meet the Easter bunny. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6186.

Donate to the soup kitchen

Donate to the spring food drive for Elim Christian Mission’s soup kitchen in Poland until May 10. Items requested are canned vegetables, rice, beans, pasta and dried peas.

By donating, you will help to feed

100 people each day that rely on the mission’s soup kitchen. Drop off donations at the Ledward chapel foyer area, School Age Services, Youth Center, Schweinfurt Middle School or Andrews Federal Credit Union. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6860.

Month of the Military Child

April is the Month of the Military Child and the community is invited to attend special events throughout the month:

- Tuesday: Character Counts workshop for children, SAS at 4-5 p.m.
- Wednesday & April 30: SAS/ACS Character Counts workshop for parents, SAS at 5-6 p.m.
- April 23: Spaghetti lunch, CDC at 11:30 a.m. (pre-registration required)
- April 24: Family movie day, SAS, time TBA
- April 25: Kinderfest, SAS at 1:30-4:30 p.m.
- April 30: CDC parade, Askren Manor at 3:45 p.m.

Sign up for a night off

Do you need a night away from the kids to hang out with friends or relax at home? Sign up now for the next Parent’s Night Out event April 17 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Deadline to sign up is Friday. The cost is \$16. The program includes one meal and is for children ages 6 weeks to 5th grade. Children must be registered with Child, Youth, and School Services and have current immunizations. For more, call central registration at DSN 354-6517, CIV 09721-96-6414.

Women’s Bible studies

Protestant Women of the Chapel welcomes all women of the community to join a small group Bible study at Ledward Chapel Wednesday mornings, 9 a.m. The new study begins April 22.

Child care and snacks provided, rides are available. Find friendship, fellowship, and God. For more call, CIV 0170-277-8980.

Video gamers tournament

The Ledward library invites youth to bring their favorite video game to the library Saturday at 3 p.m. to join others and compete in a just-for-fun tournament. For more, call CIV 09721-96-1740.

Bookmark ceremony

The Ledward library invites the community to the bookmark contest presentation and ceremony Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. and April 16, 1:15 p.m.

Winners will be announced along with short briefs and skits from the fire department, military police, Army Community Service, Family Advocacy Program, and more.

Orientation for newcomers

Are you new to the Schweinfurt community? If so, the five-day Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program is for you, from April 20-24. Free childcare is available all week. Get acquainted with the military community and the German town of Schweinfurt. For more, call DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

Wuerzburg Easter egg markt

The Ledward Crafts Studio invites the community to join on an Easter Market trip to Wuerzburg, Monday. Come peruse the market in the Schlosshotel Steinburg and have coffee and cake in the Terrace Café. Van departs Ledward at 1 p.m. and returns 6 p.m. Transportation is free. To sign up, call CIV 09721-96-6903.

BOSS trip to Europa Park

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts a trip to Europa Park, Germany’s biggest and most popular theme park. Transportation costs 42 euro per person, departs at 4 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Sign up deadline is April 19. Call CIV 09721-96-8476.

Hip-hop concert

Come enjoy a concert by Earthworms at Finney Fitness Center Saturday, 7 p.m. Listen to high-energy rhyme with just enough 90s-style sampling for a totally fresh take on hip-hop.

Single Soldier movie night

Come watch “Balls of Fury” with your fellow single Soldiers at the movie night April 21, 7 p.m. at the Finney Rec Center, sponsored by BOSS.

BOSS wants your input

Attend BOSS’s council meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. All single Soldiers are invited to attend. The next meeting is Tuesday at Finney Recreation Center, 2 p.m. For more, call CIV 09721-96-8476, DSN 353-8476.

Pregnant?

Come to Army Community Service’s class “OB orientation” April 15, 9 a.m. - noon to learn about your pregnancy, nutrition, resources and more. Mothers and fathers are encouraged to attend. Call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Bulk trash

Bulk trash is scheduled for pick up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing April 21. Put bulk items out prior to 7 a.m. on day of pick-up but no earlier than the day before. Bulk trash is only those items too large to transport in your vehicle.



STAY IN THE ACTION

The Air Force Reserve is offering part-time opportunities for Combat Airmen with excellent benefits, including choice of home base, education assistance, secure employment and competitive pay.

Choose your home base and you will not be transferred. Receive low cost TRICARE health insurance. Maintain retirement benefits. In most cases you can retain your rank and do not need to repeat basic training. Specific jobs come with signing bonuses.

Continue to build close friendships, serve your country and participate in experiences unique to the military.

Accomplish extraordinary things while you achieve your personal goals.



EVERYDAY PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

DSN 480-3940 • AFReserve.com/Prior

Easter Egg-Spedition

Month of the Military Child

April 11 2009

1000-1200

Ilesheim
(behind Storck Chapel)

1200-1400

Katterbach
(Youth Athletic Fields)

Come enjoy a family friendly event!
Food, Prizes, Easter Bunny and more!

Everyone Welcome!

Ilesheim:

1000-1015
1015-1035
1040-1065
1100-1110
1115-1125
1130-1200

Meet the Easter Bunny

Station 1: Ages 1-4
Station 2: Ages 5-6
Station 3: Ages 7-8
Station 4: Ages 9-12
Refreshments, Prizes,
Pictures with Easter Bunny

Katterbach:

1200-1210
1215-1235
1240-1255
1300-1310
1315-1325
1330-1400

Meet the Easter Bunny

Station 1: Ages 1-4
Station 2: Ages 5-6
Station 3: Ages 7-8
Station 4: Ages 9-12
Refreshments, Prizes,
Pictures with Easter Bunny

For more information:
09802.83 2395 | 467.2395

Uniquely German traditions bring color to the Easter season

by MARTINA BIAS

Special to the Bavarian News

This is the time of year when everyone is tired of the winter snow and looking forward to spring - when nature wakes up to bless us with its beauty and bounty.

Easter is the holiday that celebrates the new beginning of life and fits perfectly into the refreshing spring season.

One of Germany's unique holiday traditions is decorating Easter egg fountains, or Osterbrunnen.

This decorative tradition is rooted in the thanks-giving for life-giving water. Before central water systems, water was a precious resource, especially in areas where it was not very abundant.

During this time, wells were drawn and cisterns built in preparation for water shortages as area land structures did not provide many natural collection points.

Women usually took on the laborious task of retrieving water and lugging it to their homes.

Because the wells were critical to their survival, it is no surprise that they were kept extremely clean and were well taken care of. In some areas, the people built small "houses" over the well openings for added protection.

No one knows exactly when the decorating of the Easter egg fountains started, but many believe it can be traced to the neighboring Fränkische-Schweiz, or Franconian-Switzerland region, where it has become a very popular tourist attraction.

It may have begun around the start of the 20th century. Records show that the first well in Aufseß was decorated around 1909, and around 1914 in Engelhardsberg.

The traditional ritual starts with the cleaning of the well or fountain and the grounds around it. This is called "fegen" (literally - sweeping). This task used to be reserved for young men, but today it is done mostly by women. After the cleaning, the construction can begin.

The main decorations are blown-out eggs that can be painted in a solid shade or colorful and artistic patterns. In recent years, many villages have turned to plastic eggs, as the fragile real eggs are often destroyed by the weather or, sadly, vandalism. Single or bundled paper garlands, called "Pensala," as well as spruce branches, are wound around the

well and shaped into elaborate crowns on which the eggs are fastened. Some people also add flowers to the fountains.

Today, hundreds of villages and cities in the Fränkische-Schweiz region boast decorated wells and fountains. These works of art often feature hundreds of eggs and draw thousands of admirers each year.

In 2005, the Osterbrunnen in Sulzbach-Rosenberg sported 16,501 eggs. It took 70 people one and a half years to prepare the blown-out, hand painted eggs. With all of the preparation time, including spending 30 minutes to attach each egg, the project took 1,031 work days. If one person had taken on the whole task alone, it would have taken 4.6 years to complete.

This year, you are encouraged to take advantage of a sunny spring weekend and pay a visit to the Fränkische-Schweiz to marvel at the beautifully decorated fountains and this wonderful German tradition.

Editors Note: This article was originally published in the April 5, 2006 edition of the Bavarian News.

Right, villages and cities in the Fraenkische-Schweiz region boast decorated wells and fountains.



Courtesy photos

Above left, hand-painted eggs adorn Osterbrunnen. Above right, smaller Osterbrunnen decorate the yards of private homes.

Eierlikörtorte

This is a recipe for a wonderful German flourless cake.

This luscious family favorite is prepared with Eierlikör and topped with decadent whipped cream. Eierlikör is often compared to American eggnog, but it is not really the same. The German version is made from egg yolks, sugar, vanilla, cream and some form of alcohol.

Most Germans purchase ready-made Eierlikör in the store, but you can easily make it at home with the following recipe. You can use any alcohol of your choice.

Many Germans take great care

in making this traditional holiday treat, use only the freshest eggs, and even make a point of knowing the egg's origin. The cake prepared with the Eierlikör is perfect for your Easter celebration as its white surface makes a picture-perfect canvas for colorful decoration.

If you are serving the cake to adults, you can drizzle additional Eierlikör over the top. You can also sprinkle green tinted coconut flakes (liquid food coloring works well) on top of the cake to create a "spring meadow" backdrop for marshmallow bunnies and candy eggs. Froehliche Ostern!

Eierlikör:

5 egg yolks
1 cup confectionary sugar
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 cup whipping cream
1 cup alcohol (whisky, rum, vodka or any of the many German schnapps such as Himbeergeist, Kirschwasser, or the French Calvados)

Beat the egg yolks, sugar, and vanilla until light and foamy. Slowly add whipping cream, continuing to stir. Slowly stir in the alcohol.

Let the mixture sit in the refrigerator for at least one day. Pour into clean bottles. Eierlikör will keep in the refrigerator for about four weeks.
Yield: about 3 cups.

Eierlikörtorte:

5 eggs
1 cup sugar
6 Tbs. butter or margarine, melted
1 3/4 cups ground hazelnuts
2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
2 Tbs. Eierlikör
2 Tbs. rum
1 cup grated chocolate (semi-sweet or unsweetened)
2 1/2 cups whipping cream

For decoration:

additional Eierlikör
flaked coconut (tinted green with food coloring)
marshmallow bunnies
candy eggs

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour a 10-inch Springform pan.

In a large bowl, mix eggs, sugar, and melted butter or margarine until sugar is dissolved. Add hazelnuts, baking powder, Eierlikör, and rum. Mix well.

Carefully fold in the grated chocolate. Gently pour batter into pan. Bake for 45 minutes.

Cool on wire rack.

The cake can be baked up to two days in advance.

Just before serving, whip cream until soft peaks form (be careful not to overbeat). Spread over cooled cake.

Decorate as desired.

Yield: 12-16 servings



Occupational health nurses improve work environment, manage care for employees

Staff Report

April 17-23 is National Occupational Health Nursing Week.

"Your occupational and environmental health nurse is working this week - and each and every day - to champion your health and safety on the job," said Jamie MacKenzie, Occupational Health Manager for U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr about the week of recognition.

OEHNs are key in the role of achieving optimal employee health thus reducing absenteeism, improving productivity, and reducing health care costs.

Among other duties OEHNs: identify health risks for different age groups and cultures; encourage and support positive, healthy lifestyle changes for employees at all stages of life; leverage workplace health and disease and disability management programs to improve employee's health and quality of life; serve as health advocates to internal and external groups; and engage employees in taking charge of their health.

In addition, OEHNs are in the position to align occupational health services with mission

Your occupational and environmental health nurse is working ... each and every day to champion your health and safety on the job.

Jamie MacKenzie, USAG Grafenwoehr Occupational Health Manager

goals; facilitate communication and collaboration among units, professionals, management, and external groups; and facilitate health through health education and disease prevention.

At USAG Grafenwoehr, local OEHNs have offered the following recent health promotion programs to improve health and increase productivity: ergonomic assessments, reproductive hazards, and medical surveillance.

Worksite visits, hazard assessments, and review of work-related injuries are a few of the responsibilities that OEHNs have to protect your health on the job and ensure you are in a safe and healthy work environment.

OEHNs are trained to identify and address potential health and safety hazards in the work environment.

This might consist of conducting a worksite

analysis, developing policies for hazard prevention and control, educating and training employees on how to prevent injuries, and working with the FECA Council in the medical management of an injury, if it occurs.

At USAG Grafenwoehr, OEHNs work in coordination with other members of the health and safety team, including safety personnel, industrial hygienists, ergonomists, and physicians.

OEHNs are involved in many stages of the case management process of work and non-work related injuries and illnesses.

As a result of rising health care costs, the need for case management services has grown. OEHNs manage care for the injured and ill employee from onset to return to work; conduct assessments of employees' health status; routinely communicate with employees, management, health care

providers, etc.; evaluate and use appropriate resources; and use a multidisciplinary approach to achieve desired outcomes.

The primary goal is to achieve optimal employee health, while ensuring a safe and timely return to work in a cost-effective manner.

OEHNs work with command and management to interpret and comply with public policy decisions that protect health and safety of federal employees.

"As the largest group of health care providers serving the workplace, occupational and environmental health nurses positively impact the health and safety of the millions of people who work every day," said MacKenzie.

"During National Occupational Health Nursing Week, I hope you'll join USAG Grafenwoehr occupational and environmental health nursing staff in celebrating all of the ways that we can work together to contribute to a healthier and a safer workplace."

For more information on the Occupational Health Program, visit <http://www.chppmeur.healthcare.hq.usareur.army.mil/sites/ohd/ohd.aspx>.

German doctors receive rare look into Soldier care

Story and photo by ANNE M. TORPHY
Bavarian MEDDAC PAO

Approximately 20 German doctors received a rare chance to see what few outside of the military community see - the inside of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Intensive Care Unit.

The glimpse at the inner-workings of the hospital was part of a tour organized by the Hohenfels U.S. Army Health Clinic.

The German doctors, part of the health clinic's Preferred Provider Network, provide specialized services to local military families, such as orthopedic or cardiac care.

Their first stop of the day-long tour was the 435th Air Base Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility, one of only five in the world.

Capt. Iriz Yazno, a U.S. Air Force Reserve officer from Arizona, gave a tour of the facilities.

Yazno explained that the CASF provides medical care and support for patients as they are flown into Germany from Iraq and Afghanistan, and as they prepare to depart Germany for the U.S. on aeromedical evacuation flights.

Ninty-eight active-duty airmen, Reserve and Guard personnel move and provide transport for patients between Ramstein and LRMC.

Since opening in 2003, Yazno said

the CASF has conducted more than 91,000 patient movements.

The doctors asked questions regarding the military lineage of the 435th Air Base Wing.

Where was the 436th Wing? (Dover AFB) Were there really over 400 different wings or units? (There are approximately 281.)

Lt. Col. Derek Cooper, Hohenfels Health Clinic Commander and one of the tour's organizers, answered questions regarding the history of unit's lineage in the American military.

The doctors also asked about the multi-national partnership that is happening on a medical level supporting OIF and OEF.

Col. Theresa Schneider, Bavaria MEDDAC Commander, explained various nations in different parts of Iraq and Afghanistan work at specific and individually important medical levels.

According to MEDCOM, there are five levels of care, each progressively more advanced.

Level I care provides immediate first aid at the front line.

Level II care consists of surgical resuscitation provided by highly mobile forward surgical teams that directly support combatant units in the field.

Level III care is provided through

combat support hospitals - large facilities that offer much more advanced medical, surgical, and trauma care, similar to a civilian trauma center.

Level IV care is the first echelon at which definitive surgical management is provided outside the combat zone.

Level V care is the final stage of evacuation to one of the major military centers at LRMC or in the U.S., where definitive stabilization, reconstruction, or amputation is performed.

Schneider said that the multinational effort is critical to providing the necessary medical resources at all levels of care to the soldiers on both battlefields.

After lunch, the group traveled to LRMC, Level IV care facility for a overview and tour by Col. Steven Princiotta, deputy commander of clinical services.

The tour began in the emergency room entrance, where about 30 LRMC staff members were lined up and dressed in surgical gowns and gloves waited to receive three Canadian soldiers from Afghanistan who had been injured by an improvised explosive device.

The German doctors saw first-hand the care Soldiers receive at Level IV facilities as they were treated in ICU.

Later in the tour, LRMC surgeons spent time discussing how the hospital operates with the German surgeons. Many of the German doctors were visibly impressed.

Before ending their tour, the doctors had a chance to reflect on the day. "This has been quite an impressionable experience. The military medical community is a great logistical organization, and it was amazing to see them bringing the troops back from the battlefield," Dr. Ludwig Hecht, an orthopedic surgeon from Regensburg as well as a doctor for the German national soccer team,

who sees about 20 American patients a week, said.

Hecht, whose latest birthday was a western rodeo-themed event, said he is honored to work with the U.S. military. Hecht organized more than 90 local Germans in Regensburg to place the "We Support Our American Troops" magnets on their cars.

Dr. Rainier Munzinger, a doctor from the Parsberg Kreiskrankenhaus (district hospital) whose ancestors hail from the Landstuhl area, agreed that the experience was filled with good

information.

Munzinger felt he had always known what military medical care was about, but "it was different seeing it with my own eyes. I now have a complete image as I saw how the military takes care of its soldiers, and their impressive techniques."

Munzinger also said it was interesting to see the doctors so engaged and "their relationship to their job. They feel and know how they (the soldier-patient) are feeling. The soldier's job is the doctor's job too."



Terry Carroll (left) and Lt. Col. Derek Cooper, Hohenfels health clinic commander (right), help Dr. Rainer Wirsching, a German surgeon, try on some typical Soldiers' gear.

Medical leaders discuss stigma associated with mental health

by MARK HEETER
Schweinfurt CI Chief

Stigma is a little, six-letter word with enormous consequences, according to Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Loree Sutton, special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

"Stigma kills," said Sutton, borrowing a catchphrase she learned from colleagues in the Canadian armed forces.

"They consider stigma a deadly, toxic, workplace hazard. I like that term. Because as a leader, if any of us become aware of a deadly, toxic workplace hazard, we're not content with just minimizing it. No, we have to eliminate it," Sutton said while visiting the Schweinfurt Health Clinic Feb. 27.

One key to de-stigmatizing the mental and psychological challenges facing Soldiers upon redeployment is education, according to 1st Sgt. Creed McCaslin.

McCaslin joined Sutton on the Schweinfurt visit with Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Rhonda Cornum, director of comprehensive soldier fitness, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff (G-3/5/7), Department of the Army and Brig. Gen. Keith Gallagher, commanding general, Europe Regional Medical Command.

"We have to educate society. You have to understand, when a Soldier comes back, he's going to be different," said McCaslin, a Purple



McCaslin

Heart recipient who had logged four deployments in his Army career as of January 2008.

"It's just not like turning off the light switch," for Soldiers and sometimes they have drastically different reactions to their environment, McCaslin said.

Cornum quickly added something else about the returning Soldier, as a matter of educating the unfamiliar.

"The majority of them will come back more appreciative of their family, more responsible. They will come back better able to determine what is important," she said.

Most people will come back better citizens after what can be a defining or changing moment in their lives, she said, citing especially Soldiers in the reserve component.

"So they're going to come back and they're going to reintegrate into their communities,"

Cornum said.

"Yes, they may have some of that hyper-alertness, and they won't be the same," she said. Still, "The ways they will come back better will not be obvious."

"I know for me, I appreciate life a lot more," McCaslin said. "Family's become a lot more important, society's become more important, my ethos in general, my values on life have changed and become a lot stronger."

The country needs to be engaged in a dialogue with the military to learn about mental health, mild traumatic brain injuries, and psychological impacts of combat, according to Sutton.

"We want to educate the country and ignite the level of dialogue and hope," she said.

Find common answers to mTBI questions, at, <http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil/faqs/faqschainteaching.html>.

Grafenwoehr MPs organize, train the first district-level Afghan SWAT team

Story and photo by
Sgt. MATTHEW C. MOELLER
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Being one of the only three Military Police officers tasked with mentoring Afghan National Police in an area larger than the state of Delaware means being creative.

“We were on a soft-knock in Nishagam, and we noticed that it might be good to have a specially trained team,” remembers Army Sgt. Nathan Byrd, the team’s leader, “Well a couple of days later we were watching the movie ‘S.W.A.T.’.”

For the three Grafenwoehr based Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, 527th MP Company, the idea of establishing the first SWAT-like team made up of Afghan police in Regional Command-East, was too appealing to pass up.

Modeling the program off the Army’s own Special Response Teams, which Byrd was a former member, the three Soldiers developed a comprehensive 15-day program called Special Tactics and Training, aimed at turning an ordinary ANP officer into an expert tactical responder.

After getting permission to run the program on FOB Bostick, the team turned to the ANP station in the nearby town of Nari for their first recruits.

“We basically went to this one police station and said, give us your best, and we’ll make them better,” one of the team members, Army Spc. W. Eric Mraz said.

The six selected by the ANP for the first class varied in age from 20 to 35, and the only English any of the recruits spoke was ‘yes’ or ‘thank you’.

Moving past language barriers



Army Spc. W Eric Mraz, 3rd Platoon, 527th MP Company, shows Afghan National Police officer ‘Jimmy’ how to walk with a weapon as part of the Special Tactics and Training course at Forward Operating Base Bostick, March 21. The experimentally program is aimed at providing local ANP stations with SWAT-like teams.

with the help of interpreters and hand gestures, the three MPs soon realized how serious the recruits were about training.

According to Byrd, the recruits start every day with physical training so intense it leaves their instructors tired. After that, they begin their lessons for the day, covering everything from escalation of force, room clearing, hostage rescue procedures and hand to hand combat.

“We were hoping to get people who would just retain the knowl-

edge,” Mraz said. “And instead we’ve gotten a group of men, who not only retain the knowledge, but they ask questions, and they build on top of it, and they constantly want to learn more.”

During the training, the MPs dis-

covered that the men they were instructing shared many of the same qualities as themselves.

“I don’t know how these guys were picked,” Mraz said smiling. “I know we said we want the best of the best to be in this team, but it’s like they picked six guys who had our personalities.”

According to Byrd, the MPs even gave the ANP trainees nicknames similar to their own Afghan names. “There’s Jimmy, Dean, Snake, Google, Lizard and Rock,” he said. “Now they call each other by their nicknames, they won’t answer to anything else.”

Jimmy is the class clown and the team’s favorite recruit.

The seven-year veteran of the ANP stated through an interpreter that he joined the program to better defend his country by learning anti-terrorist techniques.

“I like training for myself and for others defense,” Jimmy said.

If a success, the three MPs hope their ambitious idea will be implemented in stations across Afghanistan.

“Right now this is just our trial period, our test baby basically,” Mraz said. “Once we have fine tuned all the training, that’s when we hope to propose it to other MPs who are working in other (areas of operation).”

The ANP officers have decided to call themselves the Special Tactics Team, in order to differentiate themselves from other SWAT-style teams across the world.

“If I could turn on the T.V. in ten years and hear something about the STT in Afghanistan, and know I had a part in that,” Mraz said. “Well that would be pretty cool.”

Building education for the future of Iraq

by **Sgt. DEBRALEE P. CRANKSHAW**
172nd Infantry Brigade

The walls look like they might crumble at any second.

The classrooms are crowded, students wall to wall, some without even a desk.

These are some conditions of schools in Iraq, but there are projects helping to remedy this situation.

Two ribbon cuttings signified the hand-over of a vocational school and agricultural school dormitory that were renovation projects of the Karbala Provincial Reconstruction Team March 19.

The vocational school renovations included

replacing ceilings, replastering walls and painting walls and ceilings of four existing buildings. They also fixed sidewalks outside the structures.

The school services approximately 300 male students who study electronics, electricity, agricultural machinery and agriculture.

Renovations of the dormitory included fixing up the original dilapidated one story structure, building a second story and roof access.

The dormitory has 16 rooms. Of the 330 students attending the school, 22 are scheduled to move in, but the dorm can house 105 students.

Both projects cost approximately \$360,000 and were completed in almost six months.

The PRT is also involved in 24 projects at

other schools throughout the province to build bathroom facilities. These facilities may seem to have nothing to do with education, but for the Iraqi females it makes a big difference.

“In Arabic culture, when females get to a certain age – the age of puberty – if they don’t have good facilities to use, they won’t even bother going to school,” said Lt. Col. Andamo E. Ford, Army Corps of Engineers, Golf Region South District, Karbala PRT infrastructure chief and engineer, a native of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Completing these projects is important to the PRT because of the potential outcome.

“(These projects) will help the young people of Iraq achieve an education or learn a trade,”

said Maj. John Gerald, 413th Civil Affairs Battalion contracting officer, an Amarillo, Texas native.

“This translates into a better future for Iraq because an educated population promotes civilization, cooperation and peace.”

These projects are also important to Ford so the Iraqi people can see American people as a positive influence on their country.

“It’s real important for me to see that we, as Americans, can leave a positive legacy behind and hopefully change the mindset of some people so that they can see Americans are not bad people, that we are willing to work with everybody to provide a better quality of life for the people here,” he said.



NEW IDEAS IN MEDICINE

25 Iraqi nurses and doctors treat “casualties” during a hands-on exercise during medical training offered by the 172nd Infantry Brigade at FOB Husayniyah, Iraq March 15-18 .

The course focused on prehospitalization trauma and basic medical skills. “We focused more on burns because they see a lot of burn victims here,” said Staff Sgt. Edwin Santana, 172nd Support Bn. emergency medical technician, adding, “We’re not trying to train them, but incorporate new ideas into their system.”

This was the first class of its kind here, but there are already more than 100 Iraqis interested in the course.

Photo by Sgt. Debralee P. Crankshaw

SORT makes saving the environment, money an easy game students can play

Story and photo by
RONALD H. TOLAND JR.
Bavarian News

Simple sorting means simple savings.

The garrison's Separate or Recycle Trash program offers simplicity in recycling for new generations.

This is how students, parents and teachers summed up the SORT recycling program, part of the garrison's Environmental Management System at the Rainbow Elementary School March 25.

For students of Kathleen Erickson's fifth-grade class, it was obviously clear and that is what the teacher said - the simplicity of the program for the students to learn how.

"Jutta's team does such a great job," Erickson said of Jutta Seefried and the rest of the garrison's environmental office staff who run the SORT program.

"They make it very easy to recycle and they show the kids, with very clear guidelines, how to do it. The kids knew all the answer to the questions asked.

"With the earth being in peril and global warning, it is good if you can get the kids when they are young to start making it [recycling] a habit," she added.

"When they go back to the U.S.A., it will transfer and become second nature and make it hard for them not to recycle."

And one student plans to do just that.

"Recycling makes less gas and pollution in the world," said fifth grader Samantha Hamontree, "and I make the world a safer place when I recycle."

Conducted at all three garrison elementary schools at the end of March, the School Sort Days offered



Stephan Haas (left) explains the SORT game to Samantha Hamontree (right) and Kristina Bone, while Gerda Koss and Daniel Woernlein observe and grade results.

education and activities for all fifth-grade students.

But besides being easy and the law, one student said she is out to save the planet with recycling.

"Recycling saves our world. We can have more drinking water - because if you recycle the gasses instead of the pollution going into the water, it makes it dirty and we cannot drink as much," said fifth-grader Kristina Bone.

"The SORT program shows we are trying to help the world - save it by recycling and making it a better and

healthier place."

And fifth-graders are the place to start - an important factor in learning SORT, Erickson said.

"They [the EMS program] target this grade because that is the age where the kids are becoming young adults and they can take a say in what is going on at home - helping and guiding their parents, and reminding them it is the law," she said.

Because 5th-graders are the initiation point, EMS program managers say recycling is alive, well

and thriving in Ansbach.

"With the School SORT Days, we are trying to make children aware of the fact we are running out of resources and we have to be more efficient, and in the end, take care of what the planet gives us - this is why we recycle," said Christian Loos, core compliance manager for the garrison SORT program.

Loos added that the SORT program's purpose is to apply the different laws, like the German waste law and Army regulations, as well as

implement the Ansbach SORT guide, which requires all community members to separate recyclable materials from non-recyclables.

"With the implementation of this program, we are trying to increase the recycling rate, to reduce disposable waste and keep our environment nice and clean," said Loos.

"We are checking our recycling rate every year. We still have room for improvement, but I think we are on the right path, and that is good," he added.

The Ansbach program is one of the best when compared to others that the garrison's EMS Coordinator, Gerda Koss, has seen.

"I think the SORT program in Ansbach is more well-known," said Koss, who is also a volunteer inspector for the region and has seen and inspected other SORT programs. "Our SORT coordinator does a great job and gets the word out via advertising and other publicity avenues.

"Our program shows that we care about the environment and the community," she said.

"It also shows that we can save the community money and makes the community clean. It is something we can all do. It is well designed and simple - it makes a difference."

And cost-savings can mean more programs for families and children.

"I feel that American kids need to learn how to recycle," said parent Tracy Schreurs, who has been recycling since she arrived at the garrison three years ago.

"It lowers the costs for the military, provides for the environment. We recycle everything, every day at home," she said. "We figure we can save the military money and we figure it can go to our schools and save the military as much money as we can."

Ansbach honors its youth with month-long activities

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**
Bavarian News

April is the Month of the Military Child and military bases around the world honor these young American heroes with special events ... all month long. Ansbach is no exception.

"Our families and children are never forgotten nor underappreciated, but sometimes, with the stresses of life, they do go unrecognized for their contributions to the service," said Trude Moellmann, Child, Youth & School Services Outreach Director, who's helping to coordinate the months' annual events for the Ansbach community, "and that is why military children are the focus for April as 'Month of the Military Child,'" she added.

Twenty-three years ago, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger designated April as Month of the Military Child, a time when each branch of the military service recognizes the sacrifices of children of parents who serve our country.

But Mollmann says there is more to it than just events.

"Recognition of the children of the community," said Mollmann.

"We recognize Soldiers, we recognize families...children play a big role and they go through the same stress, sorrow and happiness that a family goes through with a Soldier," she said and added, "so they're experiencing a lot of those different things."

She noted that the community has different support groups for different needs and people,

and "we need to also look at our most valued asset—our children and they are a big part of this."

And she said why.

"The whole reason behind this month is to bring awareness and to make people cognizant that children are very valuable to the whole scheme of things—we need to say thank you and we love you."

Mollmann added it is even more than just children's values, but family values are also incorporated into it as well.

"These events are a way to get families out and participate in a large fun event doing many things," said Mollmann, "an opportunity for some spouses to take out their families for a free event."

And Mollmann explained the MOMC theme.

"This year's theme is the 'Jungle Safari' theme," said Moellmann, "we plan on lots of decorating and events in mind for all participating agencies."

But, with all that going on, Mollmann said the end of the month is the big one.

"The Jungle Jam celebration at the end of the month—April 25, brings it all together and we have one big celebration," said Mollmann. "The ending is the culmination of the whole month."

And the children get it.

"They see it as a big free wonderful event and something they can look forward to—they see it as 'I am special,' and that is the message," said Mollmann, "recognizing they are being

recognized--it makes them feel special."

And she explained that the children show this uniqueness by presenting things they have created or done.

"We do this by talking to them about MOMC—they understand and this is really geared for that," said Mollmann.

And getting them to understand is easy. "Activities," she said, "the way we talk to them in the facilities...bringing certain understandable concrete concepts to the children that they can understand."

By doing this, it creates and builds positive, warm, nurturing, memories and experiences for children—it helps build character."

And part of that understanding is involving the children as much as possible—which is key.

"Like the parade," she said, "getting them to decorate the strollers, keeping with the jungle theme—something they've done and showing it off," she explained. "We're here too, so don't forget about us' and that is really important to them," she added. "They learn about those different things they are doing."

Finally, she added the below events do not exclude families.

"We want the families to leave feeling good too," Mollmann said.

"There is something there for everyone—families are involved, they are out and seeing people and neighbors, it is very casual—everything is something for the families and the children, providing respite relief."

Month of the Military Child Activities

■ **Friday:** Jungle Jam Talent show at School Age Services. Winners will be invited to perform at the Jungle Jam, end-of-month celebration

■ **Saturday:** Easter Egg-Spedition at the Katterbach Sports field behind the School Age Services building from 12 to 2 p.m. and at the Storck Chapel from 10 a.m. to noon.

■ **April 18:** Come kick off our spring sports season! The youth baseball opening ceremony will be at the Junior Baseball Field on Katterbach from 9 to 9:30 a.m.

■ **April 19:** Art Gala & Auction from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Longbow Lounge, Storck Barracks.

■ **April 24:** Jungle Jam Barbeque at the Katterbach Child Developmetn Center at 11 a.m.

■ **April 20-24:** The Middle school/Teen program will have a week of Robotics. New technology and equipment will be introduced to the teens.

■ **April 25:** Month of the Military Child Day Fest located at Katterbach from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Events will include a fashion show, tumbling demo, food, fun rides, and much more.

■ **April 30:** Jungle Jam's Journeys End Parade from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Katterbach and Storck Housing areas.

Free Self-Defense Class scheduled



As part of April's awareness campaign to prevent sexual assault, a free self-defense class is scheduled under the umbrella theme 'My Strength is for Defending'," says Yadira Sanchez, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for USAG Ansbach.

Research has shown, perpetrators usually look for easy targets and knowing what to do and how to react when someone tries to attack you is one step you can take to help reduce

your risk of being assaulted according to Sanchez. The initial one-hour self-defense class starts today and will run from 6 to 7 p.m.

All follow-on classes are scheduled for 10:30 until 11:30 a.m., every Monday and Wednesday until May 4, at the Katterbach Gym.

To get more information on the class or to sign up call Yadira Sanchez, at DSN 467-3660, CIV 09802-83-3660.

Do you have an idea for an article?
Call the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach
Public Affairs Office at DSN 468-
1600/7791, CIV 0981-183-791 and tell us
what you would like to read about in the
next issue fo the Bavarian News.

Educators learn latest teaching techniques, prepare for next year

Story and photo by
SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Teachers gathered at their schools for a day of Continuous School Progress professional development March 16.

Schweinfurt Elementary School was no exception, and parents were invited to join as well.

"Education is not a static profession ... educational techniques and methods are evolving every year to meet the needs of the students," said Margaret Ballinger, one of the coordinators of the educators' day.

"The general idea is that the teachers learn new techniques and activities that are already being successfully implemented in the classroom (elsewhere)," she said.

Teachers, administrators, and parents joined for a short breakfast and introduction to start the morning off and then went straight into five mini sessions, each featuring a different topic.

Subjects focused on writing, reading, math, wellness, and technology.

Director of the Kessler Fitness Center, Paul Stubbs, offered tips on classroom exercise options and general nutrition during a wellness session.

"Kids are going to imitate the parents. If they see you eating high calorie food," they will too, he said. Stubbs and his assistant director demonstrated simple exercises that could be done with a classroom chair or against the wall.

Sure Start students shared early stages of writing through their story notebooks in a few of the writing sessions.

"They need to see, hear, and say the words that they will later write," said Joni Barker, Sure Start teacher, while showing off one of the student writer's notebooks.

Some of the reading sessions shared about an interactive computer reading program, <http://www.raz-kids.com>, and its benefits of providing developmentally appropriate books, lessons and other resources for educators and students.

"I see a lot of improvements in their reading because (RAZ-kids) is fun and interactive ... they don't have anyone who's watching them," and they don't have to compete with the other kids, said SES teacher Linda Reisinger.

Guests from Garmisch Department of Defense Dependent Schools shared techniques to engage students in math through math labs with manipulatives.

"Since this is so hands-on, they really do remember it," said Shandra Lankhurst, explaining how the manipulatives help to cement concepts into students' heads.

"We don't really have a problem with them staying on task," she added.

Participants in the professional development day engaged in various other sessions as well before breaking for lunch. Following the break, teachers met with the next grade-level teachers to communicate ideas and information about their incoming classes in the fall.

Overall, the day was considered a success, said Beverly Erdmann, SES assistant principal.

"It was an exciting day of learning filled with a rich variety of information shared from teacher to teacher on ways to improve teaching and motivate students to learn," said Wilma Holt, SES principal.



Joni Barker (left), Sure Start teacher, helps Ashley Zapata explain the pictures in her writer's notebook during a session about the early stages of writing.

Youth tackle garbage head-on, work together to save planet

Story and photo by
MARK HEETER
Schweinfurt CI Chief

Paper, plastic, purple ribbon.

These and many more nuggets of garbage were swirling around a windy Askren Manor housing area March 23, until Wilbur's Green Team led the charge to clean the area.

The team of Schweinfurt Elementary School students, was joined by the Boy and Girl Scouts and children from School Age Services in the cleanup effort.

"I'm doing this because I want to save my environment and the planet," said second-grader Dominique Everett. "It's fun to go into groups and pick up trash that people might throw away."

Fun is exactly how teacher Joel Helston, Wilbur's Green Team leader, wants the children to view saving the planet.

"You don't have to be required to pick up trash. You can do it because you want to make a difference," Helston said, before leaning over to scoop up a plastic wrapper.

"This is a good bunch of kids. I really enjoy it," said Helston, who spent time in Germany before becoming a teacher here.

"So I know how green they are here. And I want the kids to get involved. We can teach this," he said.

After about an hour, broken into teams throughout the housing area, the children and adult helpers returned with several bags of trash – somewhat recycled, of course.

"I wanted to join (the cleanup effort) because I knew this would be a good thing," said second-grader Devonte Holmes.

Once the scouting groups got on board, the SAS participants were not far behind, demonstrating the cooperation that did not go unnoticed by U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee.

"It's your community," Lee said to the nearly 50 children, before presenting each group a certificate of appreciation.

And he held out hope for the children's parents.

"They're going to be very proud of you, and they're going to want to go do the same thing," Lee said.

Joel Helston holds a garbage bag for Devonte Holmes, while Michelle Furkin (left) and Dominique Everett clean up in the background.



AER provides assistance, relief during hard times

by **MARK HEETER**
Schweinfurt CI Chief

A widow looking for help did not know where to turn. Her husband, a retired Army veteran, had just passed away.

While she wanted more than anything to provide him the dignified burial he surely deserved; she was strapped financially.

The U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Army Emergency Relief office provided her a glimmer of hope.

"The week before, it was all uncertainty. She had no idea where she was going to get the money for a burial," said Darryl Jones, USAG Schweinfurt financial readiness program manager.

AER came through with the money and "put a smile on her face," said Jones.

"This Soldier probably invested money (in AER) many, many years ago, and at the end the program took care of her," Jones said.

True story about the Army taking care of its own, the motto of the AER, whose annual collection campaign runs through May 15.

"We're still in the business of taking care of Soldiers and family members and retirees," said Tony Davis, AER manager for the USAG Schweinfurt, which ranked second worldwide in 2008 after receiving nearly \$70,000 in donations.

Meanwhile, the Schweinfurt program provided more than \$380,000 in loans or grants in 2008, more than five times what they took in, according to Davis.

"It's instilled in us to try to find a way to say yes," he said. "The AER director's guidance to us at the local level is find a way to say yes, and that's our charter," Jones said.

"If you have a bona fide emergency, AER will provide assistance, even if we have to go to bat for you with your commander. And sometimes we have to do that."

Darryl Jones
Financial Readiness Program Manager

Each unit has an AER representative who is available to accept donations and guide Soldiers and their families toward financial assistance when necessary. "Army Emergency Relief adds value not just to the Schweinfurt community, but to the Army," Jones said.

For more information about donating to AER, contact your unit representative or call DSN 354-7071, CIV 09721-96-7071.

Calling all 14- to 22-year-olds in the Schweinfurt community.

The Summer Hire program begins June 22. All youth wanting to work in the summer can apply by going to <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur> and selecting the 'employment' link and then 'summer hire program 2009.'

For more information, call CIV 09721-96-1430 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Retiree appreciation day brings services, support to one location

Story and photo by
MARK HEETER
Schweinfurt CI Chief

The U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt hosts its annual retiree appreciation day April 25, and organizers hope to repeat the success of the 2008 event.

“Last year’s was a great success,” with more than 25 percent of registered Schweinfurt retirees having attended, according to Mike Sleeper, acting chief of the USAG Schweinfurt Plans, Analysis, Integration Office.

“Many retirees said it was the best one that they have been to,” said Sleeper, who was the retiree services officer last year for the garrison, a position since being filled by Sherry Renz.

“This is to honor and pay tribute to our retirees,” Renz said.

Agencies and organizations from throughout the garrison will be on hand in building 40 on Conn Barracks to assist retirees and their spouses, Renz said.

As in the past, buses will depart for the Schweinfurt health and dental clinics throughout the day to provide dental screenings, immunizations and Tricare consultations.

“It’s an opportunity to meet with the garrison personnel and, in some instances, have an opportunity to see the medical facility and dental, which is sometimes difficult for them to do,” she said.

“We will have many different agencies here at the same time,” said Renz, adding that United States-based representatives of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will be here as well.

“The whole purpose of a retiree appreciation day concept is more service to more retirees at more locations,” Sleeper said.

The event is open to retirees everywhere, including the Fulda and Aschaffenburg areas, which are now under the umbrella of the Schweinfurt retiree association.

“They just came into our area, so we’re trying to reign them in,” Renz said.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the

The whole purpose of a retiree appreciation day concept is more service to more retirees at more locations.

Mike Sleeper
USAG Schweinfurt PAIO



Spouses and retirees sign in at the 2008 U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt retiree appreciation day. The 2009 event is scheduled for April 25.

retiree appreciation day runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and a barbecue is scheduled.

“Schweinfurt’s a very close community, and

whenever we get a chance to show support for the retirees, we have a way of coming together and providing them the best services we can,” Sleeper said.

Tobacco cessation program to begin Tuesday

by **EMILY ATHENS**
Bavarian News

Studies show that millions of Americans smoke cigarettes, and of these smokers, four in five are either actively trying to quit or want to quit. For those individuals motivated to giving up the habit of using tobacco, the Schweinfurt Health Clinic has the right program to help move towards success.

“The tobacco cessation program is designed to assist and offer support to anyone trying to quit whether they chew, dip, or smoke,” said Maj. Vernell Jordan, chief of Army public health, Bavaria-West.

The program consists of six sessions and beginning April 14, there will be meetings every Tuesday 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Classes will meet at the health clinic at the check-in desk on the second floor.

“Statistics show us that support in conjunction with the smoke aid, proves a better success rate, so we want to provide that here,” Jordan



“Patches, gum, pills ... none of those make you quit. You are the driving force. Only you can stop you from smoking, chewing, or dipping.”

Maj. Vernell Jordan
Chief of Army Public Health, Bavaria-West

said, clarifying that smoke aids are any type of supplement used to assist in quitting.

Jordan explains that stopping smoking reduces the risk of fatal heart and lung disease and that this program is offered in an effort to promote healthy living, emphasizing how quitting the habit will prolong and enhance an individual’s life.

It’s also important to realize the main component that causes a clean break from bad habits such as using tobacco.

“Patches, gum, pills ... none of those make

you quit. You are the driving force. Only you can stop you from smoking, chewing, or dipping,” Jordan said.

Prior to the start of the course, participants must go through a screening process where a healthcare provider will assess their health history to ensure they can be prescribed the type of quit aid they request.

“We want dedicated people. People who are serious about taking this class because we’re going to be serious in supporting them and helping them through it,” Jordan said, explaining

how the health promotion coordinator will track their progress 30 days, three months, and six months after the conclusion of the program.

Jordan also stresses the fact that no one within the program is a failure.

“If someone falls down, if someone uses tobacco products, they just need to get back up and start the quitting process tomorrow. I want them to stop thinking of themselves as being failures,” she said.

According to Jordan, participants must draw from the support of the class and their strong will to say, “I am doing this for me.” They have to do it for themselves and for their health. In the end, it benefits the Soldier, it benefits the family, and it benefits the Army.

“It’s time to quit, no ifs, cans, or ‘butts’ about it,” said Capt. Catharina Lindsey, Army public health nurse in Vilseck.

To sign up, call the health clinic’s central appointment line at DSN 354-7901 or CIV 09721-96-7901. Class is limited to the first 15 people who register.



Rock On

Cast members of the “School House Rock Live!” production sing around the kitchen table during one of their performances.

The stage was set at the Schweinfurt Abrams Entertainment Center March 5-7 and 12-14 for an evening of singing and fun directed by Jamie Morales, family member of 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery.

The musical performance with 19 cast members animated the stage for nearly two hours each night with a packed house.

Rehearsals began in January for the cast to memorize the 21 songs, perhaps familiar to those who watched the “School House Rock” cartoon shorts in the 1970s.

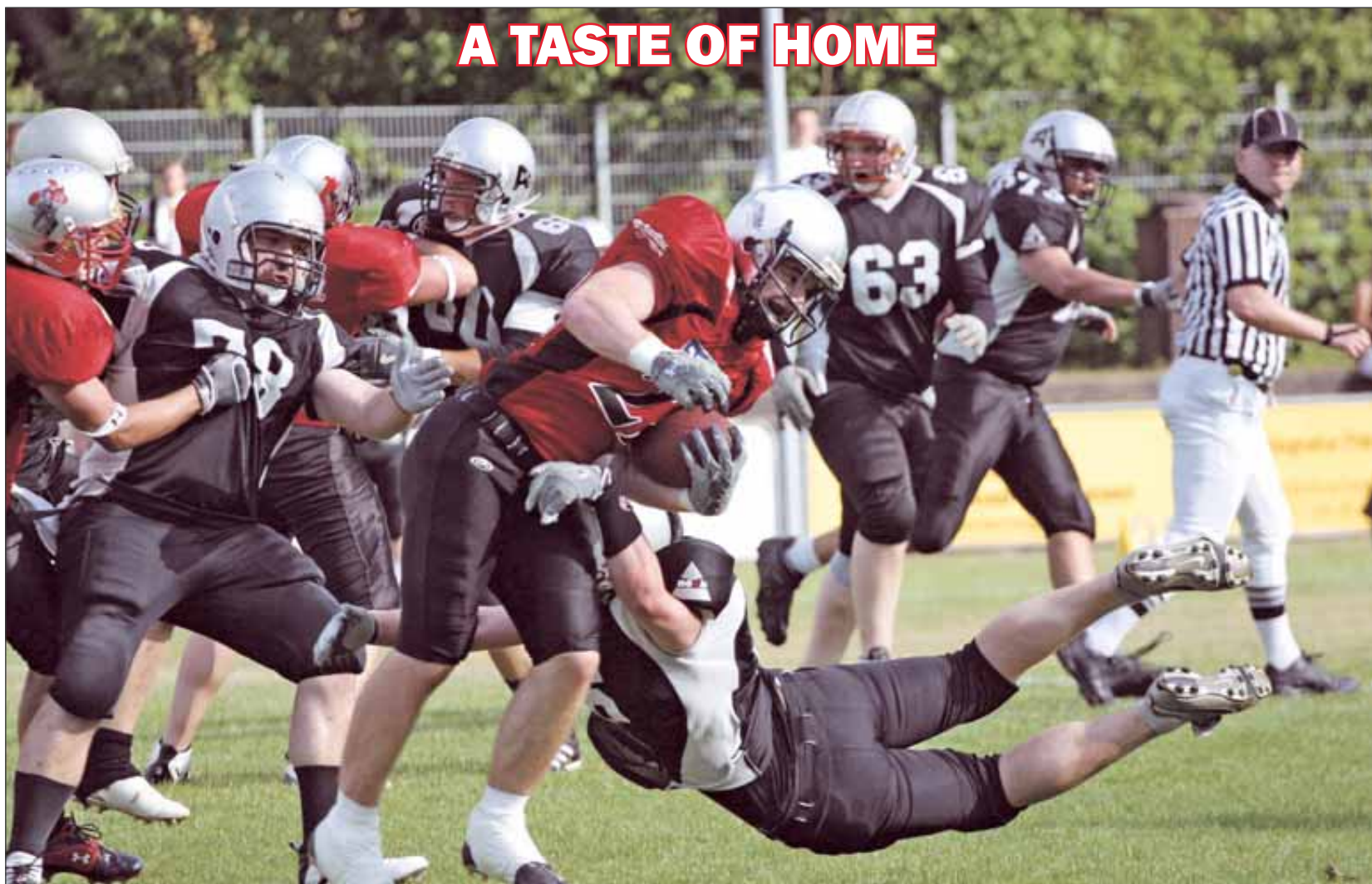
The production required the help of many volunteers and crew members for set construction, costume and makeup design, and more.

Photo by Sandra Wilson

The Franken Knights football club, a German football club playing American football, offers a fresh new perspective and friendly twist to the traditional game.

“We feel it is a common base to build friendships,” said Dr. Joachim Gleiss, president of the football club.

Courtesy photos



A TASTE OF HOME

German football club takes to the gridiron, prepares for 2009 season

by RONALD H. TOLAND Jr.

Bavarian News

Not getting enough football action during your tour in Germany? The Franken Knights football club can help.

The Franken Knights, a German football club playing American football, offers a fresh new perspective and friendly twist to the traditional game.

“We feel it is a common base to build friendships,” said Dr. Joachim Gleiss, president of the football club.

Once a ballroom dancer, but now heavily involved with the American pastime, Gleiss is just as excited and passionate as any American would be about the game.

“Once you get into it and understand the game, you start loving it. When you start loving it you want to watch it,” he said.

With more than 300 members, the Rothenberg-based, American football club offers opportunities for everyone to get involved.

“There are volunteer positions in every field,” Guenther Opel, volunteer board member, said.

Volunteer positions range from players and coaches, to finance and equipment managers and

even cheerleaders.

“We have something for everyone and every skill base,” Opel said. “If not, we can find something.”

Structured a bit differently, but played the same, the German Football League teams are driven by numbers - statistically and financially.

“There are four levels, or tiers, in the adult leagues,” said Opel. “The lowest is the Bayern league; then the Region league, which is further broken into four divisions - North, South, East, and West; then the German Football League II (a 16-team league); and the highest being the German Football League I - the “Bundesliga” (a 12-team league), with both top leagues being broken into only North and South divisions.”

With a rich 26-year history, the Franken Knights’ club has various age-specific teams as well. “We have our youngest team, called the Flagattack, that includes a sub-group of younger learners; ... our Youth Team and the Senior team, which is the adult team, is currently in the second GFL,” explained Opel. “The GFL II is the second-highest level that exists and the team was in the highest level four years ago.”

But Gleiss adds the GFL I requires a higher

license fee and that would increase membership dues. “But that is not the main thing,” said Gleiss. “It’s how good you are - you have to qualify for the GFL I.”

He notes a special aspect about the Knights - they qualify for GFL I every year. “Despite more and more teams entering the league, they stayed up there. In all the 25 years the Knights played, they were always in the two highest leagues - either the first GFL or the second; they never dropped lower,” he said. “But if we are last place or second to last place at the end of the season, we move down automatically.”

Fans and coaches do not have to worry that a language barrier will move them down. Although they are an all-German team, Opel and Gleiss agree language barriers are leveled on the playing field because terms are in English.

“A lot of our coaches use American terminology,” said Opel. “Everyone receives a play book, so they have an idea of what the game is about. Plus, the Americans that come usually learn a little bit of German quite fast and all the German players know some English - so they usually speak a quite interesting mix,” added Gleiss.

Regardless of the language, the club offers more than just the love of the game for both players and volunteers. “It is all about team building,” said Opel. “Being and working as a member of the board, there is a real friendship - there are a lot of good friends, close friends that work together as a family - everybody is working together, not only for his own, but for the club. It really is a team effort because it is volunteer driven.

“The Franken Knights is a fine tool to connect American and Germans together.”

And the president offered his perspective on the play. “American football in itself, if it gets more importance in Germany, it makes Germany richer,” he said. “It offers new experiences and is not something everybody has done all the time. It is something new and fresh for traditional soccer fans.

“If we can have a day where Americans feel at home, even if they are far away from home, see or play the sport they love and not have to watch it on TV only; and at the same time, can meet German people who love that sport also, find friends in a country where they are foreign, I think they will feel more at home.”

Finally, Opel said, there is still plenty of time to get involved.

“It would not be too late to sign up for this season, because the last day to jump on the train would be June 30,” he said.

Tickets for home games are available on game day at the stadium entrance, approximately one hour prior to kickoff.

Season tickets are available via email to frankengleiss@aol.com, Opel said.

Interested players can use the “Call the Coach” tab on the team’s homepage, write an email to the head coach, Martin Habelt, at martin.habelt@t-online.de, or come to a practice.

For details on getting involved, a schedule, to get tickets to see the Franken Knights, or request more information, go to www.franken-knights.de, or email info@franken-knights.de.

Information is also available by calling Opel at CIV 09843-2953/97990.



Always in the highest division, the Franken Knights offer fans the familiarities of American football along with friendship and volunteer opportunities.



Strykers reaffirm partnership, friendship with Panzer Brigade

Story and photo by
Spc. GERRY WILSON
2SCR Public Affairs Office

Members of the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment gathered alongside their brothers-in-arms from the Panzer Brigade 12 “Oberfalz” at the town Hall in Amberg March 14 to officially seal their partnership during the Panzer Brigade’s 50th anniversary celebration.

As a symbol of this long planned connection, both Brig. Gen Lutz Niemann, commander of the 12, and Col. James Blackburn, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment commander, exchanged certificates of partnership which signified the close relationship of the two units as well as the two nations.

“This formal act is not only important for friendship and cooperation,” said Niemann as he presented Blackburn with the certificate, “but also an emotional desire to say thank you.

“Thank you to the U.S. Forces for

what they have done, not just for us and Germany but for the whole free world,” he added. “Here is to the start of an extraordinary cooperation and friendship.”

Blackburn took the opportunity to share some of the long history shared by the Panzer Brigade and 2SCR.

“The 2nd Cavalry Regiment, the oldest continuous serving unit in the United States Army has a long history here in Bavaria and especially here in Amberg,” Blackburn said.

“In this town hall there is a memorial remembering the services of the 3rd Squadron during the Cold War.

“This memorial is an enduring reminder of the memories carried by former Dragoons that have served here in Amberg,” he explained, “and the residents of Amberg that provided such wonderful support for those 40 years that we served here.”

According to Blackburn the exchanging of certificates symbolizes the beginning of a deep and rich relationship between both units on a

personal as well as professional level.

“This relationship will allow both units to learn from each other’s experiences in combat,” Blackburn said.

In addition to the certificate of partnership Blackburn presented Brig Gen. Niemann a set of gold spurs and an ornately carved hat rack for his Stetson. “The spurs I just presented are a Cavalry tradition,” Blackburn explained. It recognizes Cavalry men for their proven ability to perform with force and stability while in combat.”

The evening festivities concluded with a ceremony on the market square known as the “Great Tattoo.”

The Great Tattoo was an evening of music played in torchlight and is considered the highest military ceremony of the German Forces.

The event featured the 10th German Army Band and Tank Battalion 122 from Oberviechtach.

The 122 is the only battalion remaining from the original brigade layout of 1959.



Col. James Balckburn, right, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment commander, presents Brig. Gen Lutz Niemann, Panzer Brigade 12 commander, a Stetson and gold spurs March 14 in Amberg. The spurs, which recognize a Cavalry Soldier’s ability to perform with force and stability in combat, marked the lasting friendship between the two commands.

Afghan security focal point of U.S. strategy

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own security, when all is said and done,” the secretary said. “And so we want to help them do that.”

The U.S. will send the Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division’s 4th Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan to serve as trainers for the Afghan security forces. The troops will arrive starting in the spring and through the summer.

The new strategy also will channel significant money to development. Gates said a large number of civilian experts in agriculture and veterinarians will help to revive the farm sector. Physicians, nurses and other health professionals will help in the medical field. Lawyers and government administrators will mentor at the district, provincial and national levels. Gates said

he hopes this will “show the Afghan people ... that life will improve thanks to these international efforts.”

The Afghan people have suffered under the Soviets and the Taliban. “We’re there as partners with the Afghan people to help them be able to govern themselves, and without somebody from the outside telling them how to do it,” the secretary said.

Trust is key to the process, Gates said, and the Afghan people have to trust the coalition and understand that “we are there to help them, not for purposes of our own other than the same purpose that the Afghan people have, which is for Afghanistan not to be a safe haven for terrorists who kill them and want to kill us.”

Gates said some of the agreements the Pakistani government has made with the Taliban

in western Pakistan are a concern to the U.S. Earlier agreements led to Taliban extremists crossing the border into Afghanistan, he said. “They no longer had to worry about Pakistani troops because of the deals,” Gates said.

But leaders are starting to understand the problems the extremists pose. “I think the Pakistani government is coming to understand that what is going on in western Pakistan is as great a danger to the government in Islamabad as it is to Afghanistan,” Gates said.

“The Pakistani army has been doing a lot of fighting. Thousands of Pakistani soldiers have died in the western part of the country fighting these extremists. And one of our goals in this new strategy is to see how we can improve cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan, who have a common interest in getting rid of

these extremists.”

Gates said Pakistan’s interservice intelligence has contacts with extremists groups and that concerns the United States. “The ISI’s contacts with some of these extremist groups - with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Haqqani network, Commander Nazir and others - are a real concern to us,” Gates said. “We have made these concerns known directly to the Pakistanis, and we hope that they will take action to put an end to it.”

Gates said the U.S. and the coalition are concerned about the narcotics trade. Drug traffickers are pumping somewhere between \$70 million and \$100 million into the Taliban each year, he said. The trade also feeds corruption and undermines the legitimacy of the government. “For both of those reasons, it’s important to go after this,” the secretary said.

Full tuition, funds transfer available under new GI Bill

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Many veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, will be eligible for full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend and an annual stipend of up to \$1,000 for books and supplies. Reservists and National Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 will have access to the same GI Bill benefits.

And for the first time, those enrolled in the Post-9/11 GI Bill program will be able to transfer unused educational benefits to spouses or children.

“It has been a long time since we’ve had an education initiative that includes tuition fees [and a] housing allowance, [and] takes care of all of

the requirements required to go to school,” Shinseki said of the program. This will enable veterans to focus on their studies, he said, without the distractions of figuring out how to pay for them.

Shinseki said he expects the Post-9/11 GI Bill to have as big an impact as the original GI Bill.

That law provided college education or vocational training for millions of returning World War II veterans, loans so they could buy homes or start businesses, and unemployment compensation while they looked for jobs.

By the time the original GI Bill ended in July 1956, 7.8 million World War II veterans had taken advantage

of the education and training programs it funded and another 2.4 million had signed up for VA-backed home loans.

“What that bill did for the country was to change the course of our history and the latter half of the 20th century,” Shinseki said. “When those veterans went back to their communities with their college degrees, they ended up being our leaders in religion, education, business, government – you name it.”

The Post-9/11 version “has the opportunity to create in the 21st century the same kind of impact for development, ... social change [and] leadership across a lot of institutions,” he said. The program will

be administered and funded by VA, and represents a “huge investment” by the U.S. in its veterans, Shinseki said.

This, he said, sends a strong, unmistakable message. “I think young veterans who come back and participate in [in the Post 9/11 GI Bill] will begin to understand how much they are valued [and] how much their service is valued, just by the opportunity here,” he said.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates advocated expanding education benefits as a way to recognize troops’ service while supporting both recruiting and retention. Gates first heard the transferability concept floated during a meeting with a military spouses’

group at Fort Hood, Texas, and pitched the idea to then-President George W. Bush. Bush promoted the idea and ultimately signed the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 into law on June 30.

Ninety-seven percent of servicemembers surveyed in August said they plan to take advantage of the new benefits provided in the Post-9/11 GI Bill, said Bill Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy.

“Enormous interest has been expressed in the transferability provision and how it would work, because so many in the force have families,” Carr said. He noted that half of the military force is married.

Pilots take last opportunity to train on piece of aviation history

continued from Page 1

This is a great opportunity to get to fly an aircraft most people won’t be able to say that they have flown.”

Though these aviators are proud to be part of a significant chapter in military history, Redding said the training is not just nostalgia, it is necessity. Pilots with the Falcon team must be able to operate the Hueys to fulfill their mission as an observer/controller.

According to Maupin, they are used to observe aviation units that come to JMRC to train, as well as to help other training units practice using helicopters in combat for tasks such as extracting injured Soldiers from the battlefield.

He said because its newer counterparts - Blackhawks and Apaches - are needed in Iraq and Afghanistan the Hueys are serving a few more years than expected.

Though now used solely for training, Lt. Col. James Barker, Falcon commander, said Hueys were once an important link between Army aviators and the Soldiers on the ground, especially in Vietnam.

“The ground forces in Vietnam truly considered the Hueys and the pilots their guardians. Since then as Army aviation has evolved we have grown further away with the relationship we had with the ground Soldiers, until Iraq and Afghanistan when Army aviators, especially our helicopter fleet, has regained the trust of our ground brothers,” he said, telling a story about a Soldier wounded in Iraq who, upon seeing the medical evacuation helicopter pilot said, “I knew you would come.”

“Having experienced that relationship on deployment, to come back here and fly the Huey, that is the granddaddy of the helicopters now, is really a rare and special opportunity.”

Skits encourage cultural change

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the same time, while men often feel pressure to be aggressive and live up to cultural standards.

The actors role-played a hypothetical and complex case of acquaintance rape from the anecdotal perspective of both members involved.

Until all of the issues surrounding the situation were discussed, it was confusing to many audience members whether it was rape or not. The audience agreed that this was a common situation. “If there is this much confusion in a big room full of people communicating about sex situations, imagine the confusion flying around between a couple that is not communicating at all about sex,” said the actors, stressing that there is no such thing as implied consent and there must be a clear question and response from both parties.

The actors stated that even the strongest of signals don’t guarantee that someone wants to have sex. Beier said that “It is not about the person ‘giving’ you consent, but about you ‘getting’ it,”

explaining that consent is something you ensure you have to protect both you and your partner. It protects your partner against unwanted sex and it protects you from an accusation of rape. The actors also compared positive consent to the use of a condom - though it may be awkward, it is used to protect both parties involved.

Mirza and Beier also addressed the culture change required to decrease cases of rape. It requires people to be accountable for their own actions, but also that they step in when situations could be interpreted wrong.

“If someone had had a bunch of drinks and went to grab their keys, would you take them?” asked Mirza to which the audience responded with a resounding “Yes.”

Mirza continued, “Twenty years ago, this was not okay to do. But we saw that enough people were hurt or killed so there was a cultural change.” In this same way, the actors encouraged Soldiers to be part of the cultural change and called all Soldiers to check in when they see situations get aggressive, inappropriate or uncomfortable.